



Letter from the Headteacher: Friday 26 April, 2024

Upcoming Events

Mon 29 April	French Exchange Students Arrive
Wed 1 May	Year 8 Options Subject Parents Evening
Fri 3 May	Year 8 Vaccinations



Celebrating 400 years of Borlase, did you know...?



Music has long been a part of the culture at Borlase. There were two concerts in 1896. In March, the school orchestra opened the concert with 'March of the Israelites' while songs by students and teachers were complemented by solos on the banjo, violin and mandolin. In November items were performed by the School Band and School Choir. The performances carried on determinedly through the Second World War with proceeds invested in government bonds.

You can purchase the *Borlase 400* book in the Marlow Book Shop or order a copy to collect from school by clicking [here](#).

The Marlow Education Trust - Letter from the Chair of Trustees

Please click [here](#) to see this important letter from Sarah Cooper, the Chair of Trustees of the Marlow Education Trust, the multi-academy trust of which Borlase is part.

Information and Reminders

Whole School

- Next week is Timetable **Week A**
- **Medical Appointments:** a request to all parents and carers to make medical appointments out of school hours whenever possible. We recognised that this can be difficult
- **MHST Self Harm Workshop at Great Marlow School 30 April 6pm:** Book [Here](#) if you have any problems with this form simply email parents@swbgs.com with your details
- Understanding Adolescent Stress and Anxiety Wed 24 April. NHS Oxford: [Here](#)
- The School Lego Society would welcome donations of unwanted lego to allow them to open up their club to younger students. Please email cwoodgate@swbgs.com if you have anything you would like to donate.
- **SEND:** Please find linked [here](#) the webpage for the Buckinghamshire County Council's Local Offer page. The local offer is a resource for children and young people with special education needs and disability (SEND) aged 0-25 years. The local offer provides details of opportunities and services provided by Buckinghamshire county council for children with SEND.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8)

- **New Group Reading and Spelling Test Year 7:** [Letter](#)
- **Year 8 HPV Vaccinations 3 May 2024 If you have not booked please do so:** [Letter](#)
- **Year 8 Parents Evening: 1 May** - Year 8s have two parents' evenings this year, one for core subjects and one for options subjects: [Letter](#)
- **Parents of Year 8** - If you would like to speak with the SENDco Mrs Ashby during the online [Year 8 Options Parents' Evening 1 May](#), please email parents@swbgs for the attention of Miss Kendall, who will arrange an online appointment for you.
- **Yr 8 GCSE Options digital form** - this will be sent out after the 1 May parent evening. Form submission date deadline is Friday 10th May.
- **[KS3 Supporting Aspiration and Progress \(SAPs\)](#) - KS3 students wishing to attend SAPs should go on Wednesdays.** It is based in Mr Lofthouse's room (M11U) 3.30pm-4.30pm. Sessions continue every week in the summer term.
- **Year 7 and 8: Assessments in lessons week commencing Monday 20 May**

Key Stage 4 (Years 9 to 11)

- **Year 10 Drama Students- Devised Piece:** [Letter](#)
- **Theatre Trip to An Inspector Calls - Aylesbury Waterside, 27 November 2024:** [Letter](#)
- A reminder that Year 11's last day is Tuesday 7th May. Some schools do not grant study leave even through the exams. We believe in valuing students' independence and responsibility but expect all students are expected in school up until this point, following the direction of their teachers, revisiting and discussing content from the GCSE course as part of structured preparation for their exams.
- [The Year 11 Exam Handbook](#) is now available on the web site. Parents and students can access examination information by visiting the website on swbgs.com/parents and carers/exams
- **Subject Specific Guidance for Year 11 on preparation for the External Exams** - Heads of Department have given guidance to help you guide your children on *what* to study and *how* - [letter](#)

Key Stage 5 (Years 12 and 13)

Year 12

- **Year 12 End of Year exams :** 29 April - 9 May. *Students are on study leave*, although the Sixth Form centre is open if they wish to revise at school. [The Year 12 Exam Handbook](#) provides key information about the exams, and a timetable. *Year 12 students back in school on Friday 10 May.*
- **The Law National Aptitude Test (LNAT) - Course** - 9 July 2024 [Letter](#)
- **Revision Mastery parent workshop: follow up resources are available from [this link](#).** Many thanks for the input and questions from those who attended.

Year 13

- [Year 13 Exam Handbook](#) : key information about upcoming A Level Examinations.
- A reminder that Year 13's last day is Wednesday 8th May (with Leavers' Chapel on the 9th). Some schools do not grant study leave even through the exams. We believe in valuing students' independence and responsibility but expect all students are expected in school up until this point, following the direction of their teachers, revisiting and discussing content from the GCSE course as part of structured preparation for their exams.
- **Last day for Year 13 : Thursday 9 May** - Parents are invited to attend celebration, 10.15 to 11.15am. Please read [Invitation for Parents](#)
- **Year 13 Leavers' Hoodies:** [Letter](#)
- **Year 13 Pre-Prom drinks at Borlase : 26 June, 5.30 - 6.30pm, in the Cloisters.** Parents invited to attend.

The Week at Borlase



Vernacular, my favourite word as revealed in Chapel assemblies, is not a word which can easily be used to describe our school. With governor meetings, Old Borlasian Club meetings, Parents' Evenings, the Senior Concert and tonight's Sports Awards Dinner, this has been a week of late finishes but also of celebration of many of the things that make Borlase the special school that it is. Our governors are a fantastically committed group of volunteers who give so much of their time and thought to the school. Meanwhile, we have alumni who remember their time at the school so fondly that they continue to dedicate hours of their time to researching the school as per Greg Lim's history of Borlase and now Tony Compton's history of the rowing club but also organising and supporting events, including gifting the prizes to be awarded at the Sports Awards Dinner.



On Wednesday evening Heads of Subjects presented their pitch to Year 8 students who are now tasked with choosing their GCSE options. At a time when many schools are feeling forced to close certain subjects, this was an evening when everyone present was reminded of the passion and expertise of our teaching staff but also the breadth of subjects on offer. For the creatives, the programmers, the performers, the word smiths, the linguists and the practically-minded, there is something there for everyone. The hard bit for most Year 8s I have spoken with is deciding which subjects they *don't* want to carry on with.



Thursday evening show-cased the talent of the musicians at the Senior Concert as a particularly talented Year 13 cohort bowed out with their incredible Leavers' Medley which was as joyful as it was humorous and appreciate of the guidance and opportunities afforded them through the work of the Borlase Performing Arts team headed by Mr Miall. The event was supported by the Friends of Borlase who ran the bar and I want to thank them (and all those who bought a glass of wine or a can of Coke from them) because without their support (and the monies they raise) we would not be able to run our extraordinary programme of events.



The Student Leadership baton has already passed from Year 13 to Year 12 who have been performing their duties impeccably over the last fortnight. We wish them all luck for their internal exams which take place over the next two weeks. I look forward to welcoming you formally to our School Captaincy Team after the exams and to their ambitious ideas to move the school even further forward during their year in role.



Have a great weekend

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Ed Goodall'.

Ed Goodall
Headteacher