



## Headteacher's Letter: 09 January, 2026

### Upcoming Events

Mon 12 - 20 January	Year 13 Mocks
Mon 12 January	Rubik's Cube Competition 4 to 6pm
Tues 13 January	Year 12 Tutor Evening
Thu 15 January	Year 10-11 Drama theatre trip to Playboy of the Western World
Fri 16 January	Grange School and Junior Head of the North rowing, 16-18 January 2026
Mon 19 January	Year 12 Chiltern Rangers - Hedgerow Planting
Tue 20 January	Year 11 Geography field trip to Amersham and Wycombe, Group A
Wed 21 January	Year 11 Geography field trip to Amersham and Wycombe, Group B
Sat 24 January	Year 10 Spanish Exchange to Ávila, 24-30 January 2026
Wed 28 January	Year 12-13 theatre trip to All my Sons
Fri 30 January	Years 9 -13 Careers trip to Pinewood Futures Festival

### Information and Reminders

#### Whole School

- **Buckinghamshire Mental Health Support Team Webinars:** we have 5 parent webinars planned for the next academic term, with topics including: exam stress, understanding childhood and adolescent development and behaviour, low mood, and understanding eating disorders. Sign-up information is [here](#)  
Social Media and Mental Health Parent Webinar: 3 March: [Here](#)  
Summer Exam Stress. Parent Webinar: 21 April: [Here](#)
- **Year of Reading 2026 'Go All In!'** Look out this year for monthly book recommendations and holiday reading, sponsored readathons, competitions and more! More information [here](#)
- **Safeguarding:** [Parent information leaflet](#) on preventing radicalisation in young people from Buckinghamshire council. If you would like to discuss this further please email the safeguarding team [safeguarding@swbgs.com](mailto:safeguarding@swbgs.com)

#### Year 7

- **Year 7 Study visit to Windsor Castle, Friday 27 March 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 7 Indoor Hockey - Spring Term:** [letter](#)
- **Year 7 Sports Team Strength and Conditioning Sessions - Spring Term 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 7 Science, Maths and Engineering (STEM) Fayre: Wednesday 4 March:** [letter](#)
- **Games:** all girls are starting back with rugby and boys football. Please ensure they have **studded** boots; **girls will need mouthguards** for rugby as we will be introducing contact into the lessons.
- **PSHE upcoming topics:** Year 7s are beginning a series of lessons called 'Something Not Right' The lessons focus on recognising abuse, where to go for help, and overcoming barriers to reporting.

## Year 8

- **Year 8 Indoor Hockey - Spring Term:** [letter](#)
- **Year 8 Sports Team Strength and Conditioning Sessions – Spring Term 2026:** [letter](#)
- **PSHE upcoming topics:** Year 8s are beginning a series of lessons on respect which follow on from lessons covered in Year 7. Lessons will focus on being able to understand the key concepts of human rights and their importance in our lives and relationships as well as being able to critically assess and challenge gender stereotypes and understand how these can be harmful in relationships.
- **Games:** all girls will be starting back with rugby and boys football. Please ensure they have **studded** boots; **girls will need mouthguards** for rugby as we will be introducing contact into the lessons.

## Year 9

- **Year 9 Indoor Hockey - Spring Term:** [letter](#)
- **Year 9 Bucks Skills Show, 4 March 2026:** [letter](#)

## Year 10

- **Year 10 Drama trip to Our Town, 10 March 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 10 Indoor Hockey - Spring Term:** [letter](#)
- **Advice on Supporting your Child with English Language Revision:** [Letter](#)

## Year 11

- **Year 11 Design and Technology Ercol Factory Visit, Tuesday 3 February 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 11 Drama trip to Noughts & Crosses, 30 April 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 11 Indoor Hockey - Spring Term:** [letter](#)
- **NEA Subject Specific Internal Dates 2025/26:** [here](#)
- **2026 Summer Exam Series Letter:** [here](#)
- **Year 11 Study Leave:** Year 11's last day in school will be Friday 8 May
- **Year 11 Parents' Evening:** will be held **online** on Thursday 22 January 2026 Letter: [here](#)
- **Advice on Supporting your Child with English Language Revision:** [Letter](#)

## Sixth Form

**Summer 2026 Public Exams Letter:** [here](#)

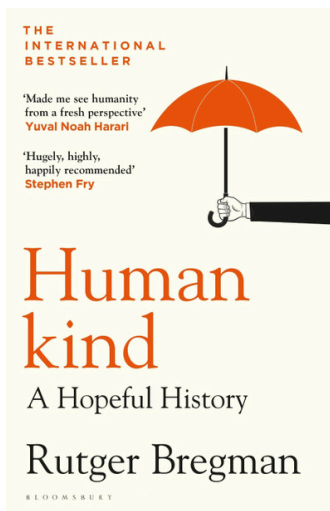
## Year 12

- **Year 12 Indoor Hockey - Spring Term:** [letter](#)
- **Year 12 students have submitted expressions of interest to become a Captain or prefect for 2026/27. Selection processes will be announced in the near future.**
- **Futures Evening, Wednesday 21 January 2026, 6.30 - 9.00pm :** [Letter](#)

## Year 13

- **Mock exams :** Please find attached the timetable and the Regulations Handbook for the Formal Practice Exams running up to the 19 January: [here](#) and [here](#)
- **University & Apprenticeship Interviews 2025/26** - Permission form to be completed by parents/carers for all absences from school: [Letter and Permissions Form](#)
- **Interviews :** Students are now beginning to receive invitations for university interviews. If your child is invited, please ask them to inform Mrs Murgatroyd so that practice interviews can be arranged.
- **University applications :** Some students have listed fewer than five choices on their UCAS application. Please check with your son or daughter if this applies to them, and encourage them to add any remaining choices before the final deadline of 6pm on 14 January 2026.
- **Important Calendar Dates**
  - **Year 13 Mock Exams:** Up to - Monday 19 January 2026. Study leave is granted during this period. Click [here](#) to view the assessment timetable.
  - **Last teaching day:** Wednesday 6 May 2026
  - **Leavers' Chapel Assembly followed by Leavers' Celebration:** Thursday 7 May 2026
  - **Year 13 Prom: Crowne Plaza, Wed 24 June 2026** - a date for your diary

## This Week at Borlase...



I am losing track of the number of times I have said it (and it is always a matter of some debate about when it is considered “too late” to say it) but it certainly feels appropriate in the first Friday letter of 2026 to wish you all a very **Happy New Year**. We hope that you have all had a thoroughly enjoyable festive break. I am very happy with my new travel mug but it doesn’t come close to the heated hoodie one of our Year 10s received for Christmas, complete with a heated pouch in which his dog can curl up and snooze!

The school staff returned on Monday for an INSET day. We welcomed Zoe Shuttleworth from *ItHappens* as a guest speaker but it was great to have more than a dozen members of our own staff delivering all-important training around wellbeing, relationships, empathy and educational visits as we readied ourselves for what we hope and plan to be another happy and successful year.

While many of us will, no doubt, have made new year’s resolutions (which I hope are still intact as we haven’t yet reached the mid-point of the first month), the focus of Mrs Walder’s chapel assemblies has been the antithesis of this, stressing that we don’t need to be a changed version of ourselves, just allow ourselves to be the best version of ourselves. Drawing on the work of Dutch historian, Rutger Bregman, to look at William Golding’s *Lord of the Flies* and a remarkably similar (and yet fundamentally different) experience of six Tongan boys in 1965. If your child is in Romans, Saxons or Vikings, they can tell you all about it. I don’t want to publish any spoilers for Britons, Danes or Normans!

In school, Year 13 have started the year with their A Level mock exams. Early reports are broadly positive and students seem to have managed their preparation well, albeit in different ways. Some have diligently maintained their focus with a couple of hours every day while others gave themselves a little longer to recover from the busy Autumn term, increasing the effort once their energies had been restored. Well done on Week 1 and good luck for Week 2! Year 12s have assumed their duties with aplomb - we are thrilled to have had over 180 applicants for prefect and captaincy positions next year. It is great how students have thrown themselves into Sixth Form life enjoying all the opportunities and responsibility that come with it. At lunchtime today, Josh was describing how much he was enjoying the primary school mentoring he signed up to, helping out with ‘Golden Time’ on Friday afternoons and also supporting younger Borlase students with English, living Rutger Bregman and Mrs Walder’s philosophy of best-self and making a positive contribution.

This January is proving to be anything but dry. I think the disappointment on Friday morning was pretty widespread as shutters and curtains were opened in the anticipation of a thick blanket of snow. However, after receiving a light dusting on Monday, students were quick to take advantage and demonstrate their creativity making snowmen around the school site. An uninterrupted Friday meant that Year 7s were able to continue their visit to the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden which was described excitedly as “massive” and “brilliant” by students on their return.

Have a lovely weekend

**Ed Goodall**  
Headteacher

**HERE & NOW**  
**ANNUAL FUND**

We are indebted to the generosity of past and present members of our community, without whose financial support we could not provide the opportunities on offer at Borlase. Please click [here](#) to find out what your support helps to provide, and how you could make a donation.