



Headteacher's Letter: 16 January, 2026

Upcoming Events

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 Y12 Futures Evening
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
Thur 29 January	Year 12 Careers in Healthcare trip House Music Finalists' Concert, 6.30pm - tickets letter here
Fri 30 January	Years 9 -13 Careers trip to Pinewood Futures Festival
Tue 3 February	Year 11 DT trip to the Ercol Factory
Wed 4 February	Year 12 trip to Maths Fest
Thur 5 February	Year 9 Drama trip to A Christmas Carol goes Wrong

Information and Reminders

Whole School

- **House Music Finalists' Concert - Thursday 29 January, 6.30pm:** tickets letter here
- **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
- **Politics Review** - January 2026. Year 12 Politics Students: [Here](#)
- **West Side Story Hair Team:** if we have any talented hairdressers in our readership (or know anyone who is) who could help out with West Side story (9-12 Feb), please get in touch via enquiries@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](#)
- **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.

Year 9

- **Year 9 Drama trip to Blood Brothers:** [letter](#)
- **Year 9 Indoor Hockey - Spring Term:** [letter](#)
- **It Happens Workshop:** [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](#)
- **It Happens Workshop:** [letter](#)
- **Academic Support Sessions:** [Letter](#)

Year 11

- **Year 11 Drama trip to Noughts & Crosses, 30 April 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 11 Indoor Hockey - Spring Term:** [letter](#)
- **NEA Subject Specific Internal Dates 2026:** [here](#)
- **2026 Summer Exam Series Letter:** [here](#)
- **Year 11 Study Leave:** Year 11's last day in school will be Friday 8 May
- **Advice on Supporting your Child with English Language Revision:** [letter](#)
- **It Happens Workshop:** [letter](#)
- **Academic Support Sessions:** [Letter](#)
- **Post Formal Practice Exams - Student Support:** [Letter](#)

Sixth Form

- **Summer 2026 Public Exams** [Letter](#)
- **It Happens Workshop:** [letter](#)

Year 12

- **Year 12 Indoor Hockey :** Spring Term: [letter](#)
- **Captains Selection :** 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 12 Mid-Year Assessments - 23 to 27 February 2026 :** In-class assessments will be held in the week after February Half Term.
- **Year 12 UCAS Discovery Day visit to ExCel Centre, London, Monday 23 March 2026 :** [Letter](#)

Year 13

- **Mock exams :** Students return to school following mock exams 8.40am, Tuesday 20 January 2026.
- **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.
- **Important Calendar Dates**
 - **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...



This has been a week when staying indoors would have been well-advised. By and large, we've been fortunate that the heaviest downpours have not coincided with our breaks and lunch times. When they have, the vast majority of students have wisely sought shelter around the school site while a few intrepid ones have continued to play games up on the Spinfield courts.



Rugby is definitely an intrepid game and not one where players are deterred by a bit of rain. Girls and boys have been finishing games lessons and fixtures absolutely caked in mud. Whether the field can cope with much more play is another matter but it held up for the Year 9s who overturned a first half deficit to beat John Hampden Grammar School in the final of their local tournament. Meanwhile Borlase hockey have been enjoying their first fixtures of the new year with a standout performance by the Girls' Year 8 C team winning 10-0! After the great performance by the Borlase equestrian team last weekend, it's good luck to the rowers and the chess players competing on Sunday!



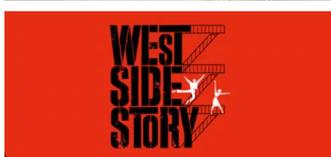
On Monday, Borlase were represented in the annual 'Articulation!' competition, a UK-wide public speaking initiative for young people that challenges them to deliver a 10-minute presentation on a chosen work of art, architecture, or artefact, organised by the National Gallery by Belle in Year 12. Borlase were represented by Belle in Year 12 whose presentation explored *Myself and My Heroes* by David Hockney.



As you will hopefully have read in last week's newsletter (and you may already have been aware), 2026 is national reading year and members of the English team are working closely with our friends at The Marlow Bookshop to create a calendar of events through the year from readathons to recommended book lists and competitions to promote the knowledge, understanding, power and wonder that can be derived reading. If you're looking to stay warm and dry this weekend, why not settle into [this collection of articles](#) which have been written by our Year 12 Politics students, updating you on the latest developments in the UK parliament and on the international stage.



If you are going to venture out of the house, how about a trip to the theatre? Borlase drama students went to see *The Playboy of the Western World*, John Millington Synge's comedy drama set in an Irish pub in the 1900s - the title caught my attention when signing it off. Miss Holmes and Mr Robson thoroughly enjoyed it but some of the students were reportedly somewhat perplexed.



Closer to home, tickets are already selling fast for the Senior Musical which will come to the stage of The Mountfield Theatre next month. Rehearsals have been taking place for several months now with hours of effort being put in after school and at weekends by the cast members and the Performing Arts staff but also by the Tech Theatre students who this week have started to construct the staging, learning stage painting and make-up techniques which will all contribute to what I'm sure will, once again, be a show to defy expectations. On that note, if we have any hairdressers who could help out, please do get in touch!



Indoors or outdoors, have a wonderful 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.