



Headteacher's Letter: 30 January, 2026

Upcoming Events

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
9 to 12 February	West Side Story
Thurs 12 February	British Junior Chess Challenge
Mon 16 February	Year 13 Physics trip to Iceland, 16-19 February
Tues 3 February	Year 10 - French Theatre Production 'RSVP' P4 in A5U

Mobile Phones and Smartphones

You will likely be aware of the Secretary of State for Education's recent pronouncement about mobile phones in schools. Over the next 6 months, we will be canvassing students, staff, and parents and carers for their views. For now, please be reminded of the Borlase policy:



- No student at any stage of the school is required to have a smartphone.
- Students' phones must be switched off and put away before they come into school, and remain off until the end of the school day.
- Sixth Form students may use their phones in designated areas which include Centenary Hall and the Sixth Form study areas.
- Sanctions: Any phone which is seen will be confiscated, to be collected from Reception at the end of the day with a SIMS point awarded. A second confiscation will result in a detention. A third confiscation and the parent/carers will be required to collect the phone from Reception.
- On Educational Visits and Fixtures, all school rules apply and phones may only be used on the express instruction of the member of staff in charge.

We strongly encourage all parents/carers to set down time on digital devices, to disable certain apps and games during the hours of the school day, to check internet, social media and app usage frequently, and to have phones and other devices kept out of children's bedrooms, especially after 10pm.

Information and Reminders

Whole School

- **The National Year of Reading 2026 Collaboration with the Marlow Book Shop:** We have asked Marlow Book Shop to give some helpful recommendations. We hope you find this helpful.
 - This is for students, by year group, please click [here](#)
 - They have also given us a list for adults too, enjoy! Click [here](#)
- **Lost Property:** Lost something? Please send your child to Lost Property on **Wednesday lunchtimes**, ground floor of the Sixth Form block. We have LOTS of named coats, blazers,

midlayers, sweatshirts, PE bags and water bottles. **Items from last term will be donated to charity on 6th February 2026** due to space restrictions

- **2026 Year 10 to 13 Senior Sports Award Dinner:** [Letter](#)

Year 7

- **Year 7 Study visit to Windsor Castle, Friday 27 March 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 on resilience - this will include practicing the skills at home - some good opportunities for points of discussion with your child. Opportunities for parent learning that compliments our schemes of work can be found here <https://bounceforward.com/building-resilience-parents/>
- **Wednesday homework club/support:** Reminder that on Weds after school from 3.30pm until 4.30pm we offer an informal space where year 7s can come and do homework - get support from year 10s and staff where needed. This can be a one off drop in or a regular visit.
- **Bushcraft parent information online session Thursday 14 May, 5pm online.** We will have a rep from Bushcraft and Mr Robertson there to help with the build up to the trip. The link to the meeting will be sent out in due course. In the meantime, [this link](#) provides a lot of useful details about the trip.

Year 8

- **PSHE upcoming topics:** Year 8s are revisiting and extending from last year on a series of lessons about resilience - this will include practicing the skills at home - some good points of discussion with your child. Opportunities for parent learning that compliments our schemes of work can be found here <https://bounceforward.com/building-resilience-parents/>

Year 9

- **CGP Revision Resources:** [letter](#)
- **It Happens Workshop:** [letter](#)

Year 10

- **Year 10 Drama trip to Noughts & Crosses, 30 April 2026:** [letter](#)
- **It Happens Workshop:** [letter](#)
- **Academic Support Sessions:** [Letter](#)
- **2026 Year 10 to 13 Senior Sports Award Dinner:** [Letter](#)

Public Exam Statements of Entry - Important

Over the next week or so the students in years 11, 12 and 13 taking Public Exams will receive a statement of entry via their Tutor Group. We have asked students to check them and identify any errors, but please do ask to see them as unfortunately our system cannot email them to parents/carers.

Year 11

- **Y11 Drama trip to *Inter Alia*, 26 March 2026:** [letter](#)
- **2026 Year 10 to 13 Senior Sports Award Dinner:** [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
- **2026 Year 10 to 13 Senior Sports Award Dinner:** [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](#)
- **2026 Year 10 to 13 Senior Sports Award Dinner:** [Letter](#)
- **Slides from Futures Evening held on 21 January 2026:**
 - [Apprenticeships](#)
 - [UCAS](#)
 - [Applying to Oxford and Cambridge Universities](#)
 - [Careers in the Performing Arts](#)

Year 12

- **Year 12 Biology Biodiversity and Conservation Field Trip, 23 June 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 12 Mid-Year Assessments - 23 to 27 February 2026 :** In-class assessments will be held in the week after February Half Term. Click [here](#) to view the assessment timetable.
- **UCAT training :** Students intending to apply for Medicine or Dentistry will take place on 12 March 2026. Letters of invitation have been sent to the parents of students who have expressed an interest in participating. Please note that the deadline for payment is Monday 9 February 2026.
- **Year 12 UCAS Discovery Day visit to ExCel Centre, London, Monday 23 March 2026 :** [Letter](#)

Year 13

- **Y13 Drama trip to *Inter Alia*, 26 March 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 13 Parents' Evening** - will be held **online** on Tuesday 24 February 2026: [Letter](#)
- **UCAS :** 240 UCAS applications were sent this year. Students receiving offers should check conditions very carefully, as there are often additional requirements other than A Level grades to confirm a place, for example, uploading GCSE certificates, completing DBS checks or fulfilling fitness to practice requirements. Please also note the following UCAS related deadlines to accept firm and insurance offers:

Last decision received:	Reply date:
On or before 31 March 2026	6 May 2026
On or before 13 May 2026	3 June 2026
On or before 15 July 2026	22 July 2026

- **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...



Thank you all for your understanding and forbearance during the power cut which affected parts of Marlow on Monday. Please accept our apologies for the disruption caused. We were stymied in our efforts to inform parents and carers sooner because the School Comms system reaches into our Management Information System which is located on on-site servers, themselves affected by the power cut. A review is underway to improve this, should there be a repeat.



As someone whose secondary education took place entirely in the 1990s, I was in my element this week with the culmination of this year's House Music competition, themed around Britpop. Through Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning Form Periods, 1,200 students from each of the six houses performed classics from Oasis, Blur, The Verve, The Boo Radleys and Cornership on stage in the Borlase Theatre. To say that Britpop isn't every member of staff's cup of tea would be an understatement. As Saxons took to the stage, one member of staff mistook their wearing coats as a uniform transgression when they were in fact doing their best Noel and Liam impersonations. On Day 3 Mrs Walder, the yin to my yang in so many ways, exclaimed, "This is a whole new world to me... and one I don't want to return to!" Philistines! With 47 out of the 48 Forms submitting an entry, the event was a triumph of participation.



On Thursday evening the solo and ensemble finalists were back in the Mountfield Theatre, performing to an audience of parents and friends and a judging panel of Mr Miall and musician, producer and songwriter, Julian Emery. The standard of performance was exceptional from Year 7 up to Year 13 featuring numbers from Bach, Tim Minchin, Beethoven, and Black Sabbath!

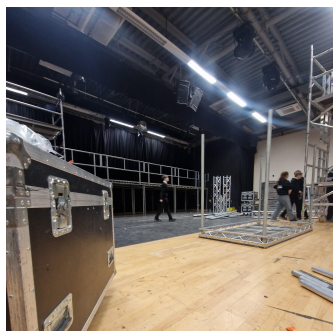


On Wednesday afternoon, the 1st XV demolished Royal Latin Grammar School to move into the final of the "Round of 6" tournament where they are likely to face Lord Williams' School, Thame in the final, against whom we would be looking to make it third time lucky this season.



On Monday evening, the Borlase senior debate team were in action in the second round of the ESU Debating competition. Proposing a meaty motion, the team of Izzy, Simran and Amy performed well in a field of six local schools but were edged into second place by just ½ a point by Pipers Corner, narrowly missing out on progressing to the next round.

On Thursday, Dr Michael Warner, Director of the Centre for Local Content Innovation, met with Year 12 students to trial software he has developed to optimise energy consumption in city-wide lighting schedules. He also demonstrated a second tool that aligns domestic energy use with national forecasts, enabling increased electricity use when renewable supply is highest.



On Friday, Year 12s gather in Centenary Hall for the next round of the Captain and Prefect selection process, voting which of their peers they feel have the qualities that would make them strong candidates for the senior student leader positions. This, alongside other criteria will be used to determine the 40 students who will be taken through to the Selection Event in March. Hot competition in a year group that is shaping up very nicely.

And finally, the Theatre was closed down today to allow the Tech Team to start the work on building the set for the already-sold out musical. The excitement is building!

Have a lovely weekend,

Ed Goodall
Headteacher