



Headteacher's Letter: 6 February, 2026

Upcoming Events

Sat 7 February	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh training day (in school)
Mon 9 to Thu 12 February	West Side Story
Tue 10 February	Spanish Theatre Production 'Un Ensayo Desastroso'
Thu 12 February	British Junior Chess Challenge
Fri 13 February	Non-school uniform day in aid of 'Young Roots' GB Boston rowing trials, 13-15 February Half Term starts at 3.30pm
Mon 16 February	Year 13 Physics trip to Iceland, 16-19 February
Mon 23 February	Term Starts at 8.40 - B Week
Mon 23 February	Year 12 Assessment Week
Tue 24 February	Year 13 Parents Evening - On Line
Wed 25 February	Year 13 Science - Marlow Primary Schools Outreach



Archway Closure after Half Term

When we return after half term, the Archway entrance will be unavailable until June with scaffolding erected to complete the final stage of the re-roofing project.

- Students will enter and exit via the Chapel Gate on West Street
- The bike racks will be relocated to the secure, walled area (use locks as well)
- Senior staff will supervise the exit at the end of the day
- Period 5 will end 10 minutes early for Years 7 and 8 to allow for safe departure from school.

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](#)
- **Non-school uniform day in aid of 'Young Roots'**, contributions via ParentPay
- Walking with you Parent Support Group Sessions: Oxford NHS and Bucks CAMHS: [Here](#)

Year 7

- There is no Year 7-specific information this week

Year 8

- There is no Year 7-specific information this week

Year 9

- 'It Happens' PSHE student workshops: [letter](#) - updated dates
- **Thursday 5 March - Buckinghamshire Immunisation Team** - TdIPV and MenACWY vaccinations to students in Year 9 - Consents and information click: [Here](#)

Year 10

- **Academic Support Sessions:** [Letter](#)
- **It happens student workshops:** [letter](#) - updated dates
- **Tuesday 10 February Spanish Theatre Production 'Un Ensayo Desastroso' in the Old Gym P3.**

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

- **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
- **Academic Support Sessions:** [Letter](#)
- **Post Formal Practice Exams - Student Support:** [Letter](#)
- **It happens student workshops:** [letter](#) - updated dates

Sixth Form

- **Summer 2026 Public Exams** [Letter](#)
- **It happens student workshops:** [letter](#) - updated dates

Year 12

- **Nottingham University Sutton Trust Summer Schools:** Applications for the [Nottingham University Sutton Trust summer schools](#) are now open but close on 5 March.
- **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.
- **Year 12 UCAS Discovery Day visit to ExCel Centre, London, Monday 23 March 2026 :** [Letter](#) Please can parents/guardians complete [this form](#) to give consent.

Year 13

- **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
- Please read this information from UCAS about university decisions and how [firm and insurance choices](#) work.
- **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...



Lessons seldom get a mention in this letter but they are the bedrock of what goes on each day and each week in school. Popping into Mr McNally's Economics lesson, I learned that he has been a double for actors Matt Damon and Dwayne Johnson among others, agreeing wage splits with them, effectively performing a franchise service. Who knew?!



Meanwhile, the Modern Languages Department welcomed the Onatti Theatre company to bring language learning to life with their interactive play about Léa and Théo's YOLO lifestyle featuring enthusiastic audience participation as you might be able to make out in the photo to the left.



The Year 7 Girls' hockey club returned to school bedraggled but bubbling with enthusiasm after getting through the regional finals at Marlow Sports Club to compete in the National Finals later this term. The U18 Rugby 7s team performed exceptionally well to win the Bowl competition at the Northampton Saints 7s competition, hosted by Oundle School.



Public speaking is coming to the fore once again in the house competitions with debating following shortly after half term. Borlase teams were in action once again in the Oxford Union debating competition and the ESU Public Speaking competition where the Year 11 team of Ava, Ollie and Jessica made it through to the next round.



On Monday I dropped in on EcoSoc who had been calculating the environmental contribution (and financial savings) the school could make with a solar panel installation. Following last year's Green Day, we now have engineers coming in to assess the Sports Hall, Canteen and Old Gym roof spaces. EcoSoc then hosted a bake sale on Friday lunchtime which raised a further £216 towards the installation, including an auction which was allegedly held for the face of Colin the Caterpillar...



If the rain continues to fall next, you could do worse than watch the television adaptation of William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* by Jack Thorne (screenwriter of *Adolescence*) which airs at 9pm on Sunday on BBC1. Listeners to Mrs Walder's most recent Chapel Assembly will remember the story but also the episode of the Tongan boys whose island isolation was far more harmonious. My Chapel Assemblies over the last weeks have focussed on imposter syndrome, the triumph of the underdog, and aspiration, inspired by the achievement of Jordan Smith, the amateur tennis player, who took home \$1mASD as winner of the One Point Slam. Dare to dream, and don't let anyone hold you back.

Next week is performance week for the Senior Musical, *West Side Story*, which promises to be a blast; I'm sure those with tickets will have a fantastic time. We will also be celebrating Chinese New Year with our catering partners promising various authentic dishes to welcome in the Year of the Horse on Thursday 12 February.

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.