



## Headteacher's Letter: 27 February 2026

### Upcoming Events


Mon 2 March	Friends of Borlase PTA Meeting - Stuart Lever Room 7pm <b>All</b> parents welcome
Year 12 Geography Field Trip to Cranedale, 2-6 March	
Wed 4 March	Year 7 STEM Fayre
	Year 9 Careers Trip to the Bucks Skills Show
Thurs 5 March	Year 9 Vaccinations: <a href="#">Here</a>
	Year 11 Scripted GCSE Drama exams
	Year 12 Trip to Psychology in Action
Fri 6 March	Borlase Iftar Celebration: <a href="#">Here</a>
	Year 12 Creative Writing Trip to Venice, 6-9 March
9-10 March	A Level Dance Exams
Tues 10 March	Year 12 Trip to Chemistry in Action
	Year 10 Drama Trip to 'Our Town'
	A Level Music Exams
Wed 11 March	Borlase Poetry Evening
Thurs 12 March	Boys Dance Co Performance - Aylesbury
Fri 13 March	Yr 12 French Trip to Montpellier, 13-16 March
	Naboj and UKMT Maths Competitions
	Yr 12 Trip to Physics in Action
	Jazz Night: Tickets letter <a href="#">here</a>



### Ramadan and The Borlase Iftar

We are delighted to invite you to our second annual Iftar Dinner on Friday, 6 March 2026 in the Centenary Hall. Iftar is the meal Muslims share at sunset to break their daily fast during the month of Ramadan. This free event is open to all students. We are honoured to be joined by [Dr Gulamabbas Lakha](#) from the University of Oxford, who will speak about the religious and spiritual significance of Ramadan in Islam. The poster is [here](#). Register for your tickets [here](#).

If any students are fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, please let the school know via [parents@swbgs.com](mailto:parents@swbgs.com) in case any adjustments are needed.



### *Sequere!* The Captains' Magazine

The latest edition of the Captains' Magazine is [here!](#)

It contains updates on what all of our different Captains have been doing, from Eco to Student Research, and from the House Captains to Equalities. There are 48 pages full of information from different visits which have taken place, media reviews, highlights of sporting fixtures including the 'Under the Lights' contest against Great Marlow School, and a quite brilliant interview with the remarkable Ms Watson. Students in her classes need to make sure they hand in their homework!

## The Friends of Borlase



### Upcoming Events: Save the Date!

**Mon 2 March - Friends of Borlase Meeting in the Stuart Lever Room at 7pm-Please join us to hear all the exciting plans and hear about all we have achieved so far**

Fri 13 March - Jazz Night

Wed 25 and Thu 26 March - The Dance Show

Thu 23 April - Senior Concert Night

Fri 8 May - Comedy Night

Thu 25 June - Summer Concert

Thu 9 July - 'Borlase Unplugged' Summer Festival and Drinks Party

**Online Auction:** The FoB Auction Committee are excited to be launching their first SWBGS online auction with Gala Bid in March. Having secured some fantastic prizes from local businesses, if you can help donate any other prizes, please email [friendsofborlase@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofborlase@gmail.com). Information on how to bid is coming soon!

## Information and Reminders

### Whole School

- **Jazz Night - 7pm, Friday 13 March 2026 - Tickets on sale now:** [tickets letter](#)
- **Borlase Poetry Evening - 6.30pm Wednesday 11 March 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Add our SchoolComms sender address to your "safe sender" list**

As you may be aware, email service providers continually review and update their algorithms for filtering junk and spam messages. This week we have had a number of hotmail email addresses notified to us as having been blocked due to our emails being reported as SPAM. To help avoid this, could you please ensure that [sc8254505a@schoolcomms.com](mailto:sc8254505a@schoolcomms.com) is added to your safe sender list in your email service provider's platform.

### Year 7

- PSHE lessons - Year 7s are half way through their Resilience lessons. Please engage with them around their homework (set on Google Classroom) **Lesson 1:** Resilience and Harnessing Emotions **Lesson 2:** Connecting the Brain, Emotions and Thoughts **Lesson 3:** Gremlin Beliefs **Lesson 4:** Optimism and Evidence **Lesson 5:** WoBbLe - Calming the Catastrophising Beliefs **Lesson 6:** Resilience Planning

### Year 8

- In PSHE students will be learning about FGM - explaining what is meant by FGM, identifying risks, myths and facts associated with FGM and describing how to safely access support for ourselves or others who may be at risk, or have already been subject to FGM.

### Year 9

- **Thursday 5 March - Buckinghamshire Immunisation Team** - TdIPV and MenACWY vaccinations to students in Year 9 - Consents and information click: [Here](#)  
**Please do complete the consent form in the link**
- **Year 9(10) German exchange 2026 - 2027:** [Letter](#)

### Year 10

- **Academic Support Sessions:** [Letter](#)

### Centre Assessed Marks for GCSE & A Level- Important

Some subjects have NEA elements that are marked internally and then moderated by the exam boards:

GCSE - Art, Dance, Drama, DT, Music, PE, English Language spoken endorsement

A level - Art, Computing, Drama, English, Geography, History, PE, EPQ, Science practical endorsements

JCQ rules state that schools must inform candidates of their centre assessed marks as students are allowed to request a review of the marking before marks are submitted to the awarding body. Unlike written papers, reviews of marking for NEA cannot be requested in the summer after results have been issued.

If your child is taking a subject with NEA/an endorsement, please read [this letter](#) and the policy linked in it.

## 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](#)
- **Easter Revision Sessions:** [letter](#) and [timetable](#) **PLEASE NOTE:** Due to some administrative challenges, the GCSE sessions will be made available for booking and payment on ParentPay at **4pm** on **Monday 2 March 2026** rather than 11am as outlined in the letter.

## Sixth Form

- **Summer 2026 Public Exams** [Letter](#)
- **STEM Dinner:** [letter](#)

## Year 12

- **Well done to Year 12 for successfully completing their Mid-Year assessments this week.**
- **Year 12 Parents' Evening - in person, 24 March 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 12 Biology Biodiversity and Conservation Field Trip, 23 June 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Easter Revision Sessions for AS Further Maths:** [Updated letter](#) providing further detail of the sessions: [letter](#)

## Year 13

- **Year 13 Leavers' Celebration:** [letter](#)
- **Easter Revision Sessions:** [letter](#) and [timetable](#)
- **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...



Astonishingly, after just one week back, we have already completed one fifth of this short half term. I hope that you had an enjoyable break and had as educational and as fun time as the Physics department who went on their second trip to Iceland, visiting Seljalandsfoss, Hellisheidi geothermal power plant, and viewing the Northern Lights. The difference between the end of last half term and the start of this is no more apparent than in how much lighter it is in the mornings - a lovely portent of what is to come. Back in school, with the warm Wednesday and the daffodils blooming in Cloisters, we have sought to make hay while the sun shines and, five days in, have already achieved a lot...

On Monday, the Student Voice Committee (made up of representatives from each Form and organised by the School Captains) met for initial discussion about the school's policy and procedures around mobile phone access and use leading to lively and engaging debate.

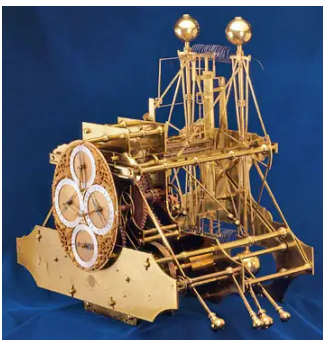
On Wednesday we welcomed *It Happens* back into school to deliver talks to Year 13 about Future Relationships, Year 9 about Intimate Relationships, and Year 11 about Keeping Your Body Safe and Sexual Health. While some students might feel the main thrust of their education is about exam performance at this time of year, lessons on these topics and others covered in the PSHE programme have the potential to be far more impactful than the difference a subject grade will make. Nevertheless, there is seldom a time when one year group or another is not undergoing some sort of assessment. This week the Year 12s have been completing their in-class assessments while the GCSE and A Level Drama, Dance and Music students have been refining their performances for the examiners.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Boys' Hockey 1st XI hosted Magdalen College School in the Spring sunshine at Marlow Sports Club. Cheered on by the younger teams and their Sixth Form friends, they put up a spirited performance but eventually succumbed to 3-2 defeat but showing promise for the remainder of the season.

On Thursday, Year 8 and Year 9 were in the Chapel with Mr Lofthouse and their English teachers for the Poetry by Heart heats, with the finalists performing in the Drama Studio in two weeks' time. After school, students were learning about nutrition from our expert friends at True Adventure, and were busily planning their meals for their imminent Duke of Edinburgh Award practice expeditions.

This week (and the week before half term), the Chapel has hosted Mrs Walder's assemblies which have asked the question, how do we know where we are? From the early teachings of [Hypatia](#) in 4th century Alexandria, the invention of carpenter and clockmaker, [John Harrison](#), to solve the age-old problem of determining longitudinal position, and that of the late [Dr Gladys West](#) whose work contributed to modern GPS systems, innovation comes from understanding, from questioning, and from innovating and precision.

This renaissance thinking is clearly alive at Borlase with Andy bringing in his model of the oculus at the centre of the domed roof of the Pantheon, the 2nd century Roman temple with an 8 metre diameter hole in its centre.



Have a lovely, light 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.