



Headteacher's Letter: 06 March, 2026

Upcoming Events

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 Letter
Thur 12 March	Boys Dance Co Performance - Aylesbury
Fri 13 March	Year 12 French Trip to Montpellier, 13-16 March
	Naboj and UKMT Maths Competitions
	Year 12 Trip to Physics in Action
	Jazz Night: Tickets letter here
Thur 19 March	GB Rowing trials, Nottingham, 19-22 March
Fri 20 March	Year 12 Spanish Trip to San Sebastian, 20-23 March
Wed 25 March	Year 12 STEM Outreach volunteering, Burford School
	Annual Dance Show: Letter
Thur 26 March	Year 11 and Year 13 Drama Trip to Inter Alia
	Year 10 Ski trip to Jasper, 26 March - 3 April
Fri 27 March	Year 7 History Trip to Windsor Castle



Thames Valley Police Communication

You may have seen recent Thames Valley Police posts on social media regarding social media posts which suggest that fights between schools have been arranged via Tik Tok, or read coverage in the national media. Thames Valley Police have asked us to share this [communication](#).

Please share information via the Thames Valley Police [Community Partnership Intelligence Sharing](#) link. If there is an imminent risk of harm, please call 999/101.

The Friends of Borlase



Upcoming Events: Save the Date!

- 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. Information on how to bid is coming soon!

Standards... and aerosol sprays



In the wise words of Ella in Year 7, “when we look after the small things, the big things will follow.” Following two unnecessary fire alarms (which cause the loss of c200 hours of learning each, and can be hugely disruptive to public exams), we are now stating that aerosols are banned in school.

Earlier in the week, I saw fit to remind students in all years about the importance of uniform, punctuality, respect for the environment, and general kindness and courtesy. These are the bedrock of our school community and we deeply appreciate the support of all parents and carers in helping us to maintain the high standards which have been built over time.

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](#)
- **The Annual Dance Show** will take place in the Theatre on 25 and 26 March. Tickets on sale now: [Letter](#)

Year 7

- **PSHE Topics:** Created by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC), we are beginning a series of lessons to give students the skills to make considered choices about viewing film and media content, develop strategies to manage peer pressure, recognise the differences between on-screen and real life relationships, and to be aware of the issues of viewing potentially harmful content, including online.

Year 8

- **GCSE Options** - all year 8 classes have begun a series of lessons preparing them for GCSE option choices in May. This week we focussed on evaluating the range of reliable advice they are likely to receive in the coming weeks. Some key dates for this process are:-
 - Weds 22nd April - Year 8 Core subjects & options presentation (live in school);
 - Weds 29th April - Year 8 Options Parents Evening (online);
 - Thurs 30th April - GCSE options form released to year 8 students
 - Fri 8th May - deadline for year 8 GCSE options form

Year 9

- **Year 9 Music, Garsington Opera in-school workshop (28 April 2026) and theatre trip (15 July 2026):** [letter](#)
- **Year 9(10) German exchange 2026 - 2027:** [letter](#)

Year 10

- **Year 10 Music, Garsington Opera in-school workshop (28 April) and theatre trip (15 July):** [letter](#)
- **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](#)

Sixth Form

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

Year 12

- **Y12 French and Drama theatre trip to Misanthrope, 25 June 2026:** [letter](#)
- **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

- **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...



Perhaps unsurprisingly, 'Mad March' is a term that I've heard bandied around in a few places this week and it may go some way to explaining the reminder about standards referenced above. Coinciding with National Careers Week, over the last 7 days there have, once again, been so many different things going on at the school which are a testimony to the breadth of opportunities on offer at Borlase and contribute to the breadth of destinations, careers, and vocations of our students.

The quotation from Ella in the Standards section above came from the House Public Speaking Finals which took place last Friday. Congratulations go to all of the participants and the finalists. With speeches ranging in topic from "How to decide what to talk about in a public speaking competition" to "The impact of sports kit on girls' participation in Sport", the competition provided a great platform for students to develop skills relevant to a huge range of careers.

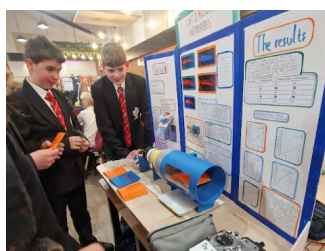
On Wednesday Year 9s visited the Bucks Skills Hub for an interactive experience supported by over 100 businesses and employers from the county, attended simultaneously by 8 other schools. We are very proud that the students attending received exceptionally high praise from the exhibitors, the organisers, and their coach drivers for their politeness, engagement and behaviour. Nice work, Year 9!

In school, Year 11 Drama students have been preparing for their examined performances on Thursday and perhaps a career on screen, on stage, or in production. Performing excerpts from plays including *A View From the Bridge*, *The Lehman Trilogy*, *Lord of the Flies*, *Boys*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Taste of Honey*, *The Maids*, *Shakers*, and *Daisy Pulls It Off!* among others, we hope the visiting examiner was as impressed as Miss Rayner and Mr Tekerian!

Year 7 have had their creative juices flowing for the last weeks, culminating in the judging of this year's Castles Competition on Tuesday morning and the ever-brilliant STEM Fayre after school on Wednesday. Mr Mead is convinced that the castles get better every year while the scale of some match Queen Mary's dolls' house which Year 7 will see at Windsor Castle later this term. Meanwhile, at the STEM Fayre, the knowledge gained from research and testing on alternative protein sources (I ate mealworms, again, and they don't improve!), air resistance and wing performance (students had 3D printed a wind tunnel!), and plastic waste was awe-inspiring. Architects and problem solvers of the future.

Year 13 Geographers have been at the Cranedale Centre completing their A Level fieldwork studies this week under clear blue skies which cannot be guaranteed in Yorkshire at this time of year.

And finally, hopefully offering some inspiration to the England rugby team this weekend, the 1st XV were victorious against Lord Williams's School, Thame, in the County Cup Final on Wednesday. Having lost to Lord Bill's twice earlier in the season, the final was a season-ending showdown. Borlase won, 33-31, through a last-minute penalty kicked by the captain, Alexis, just inside the half way line, reminiscent of 2003 for those of a certain generation.



Have a lovely weekend

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Goodall'.

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.