



Headteacher's Letter: Friday 13 March, 2026

Upcoming Events

Fri 13 March	Year 12 French Trip to Montpellier, 13-16 March
Thur 19 March	GB Rowing trials, Nottingham, 19-22 March Spring Chamber Concert, 7pm: Letter
Fri 20 March	Drama A level Exams Year 12 Spanish Trip to San Sebastian, 20-23 March
Mon 23 March	Year 12 UCAS Discovery Day
Wed 25 March	Year 12 STEM Outreach volunteering, Burford School Annual Dance Show, 7pm: letter
Thur 26 March	Year 11 and Year 13 Drama Trip to Inter Alia Year 10 Ski Trip to Jasper, 26 March - 3 April Annual Dance Show, 7pm: letter
Fri 27 March	Year 7 History Trip to Windsor Castle Ithappens workshops for year 10 and 12
Wed 1 April	J16-18 Rowing Camp, Soustons, France, 1-7 April



Annual Parent/Carer Whole School Survey - [click here](#)

Each year, we ask our parent body to complete this questionnaire as a longitudinal study in satisfaction with the educational provision at Borlase. This year, it features questions from the updated Ofsted Parent View survey. It will be live over the Easter break and we would love to have as many responses as possible. It takes approximately 10 minutes to complete.

The Friends of Borlase



Upcoming Events: Save the Date!

Wed 25 and Thu 26 March - The Annual Dance Show
Thu 23 April - Senior Concert
Fri 8 May - Comedy Night
Thu 25 June - Summer Concert
Thu 9 July - 'Borlase Unplugged' Summer Festival

Information and Reminders

Whole School

- **Allergy information:** We will be contacting parents/carers over the next few weeks to ensure our allergy information is up to date. If your child has an epipen (or any other autoinjector) or inhaler we are required to have a detailed health plan and would be grateful for your input.
- **The National Year of Reading Recommendation:**
 - [Students](#)
 - [Adults](#)
- **The Spring Chamber Concert** will take place in the Recital Room on Thursday 19 March. Parents of students performing will also have been emailed directly. Tickets are on sale now: [Letter](#)
- **The Annual Dance Show** will take place in the Theatre on 25 and 26 March. Tickets on sale now: [Letter](#)
- **Duke of Edinburgh Discount Event** - Millets in Chesham are hosting an exclusive after-hours event for DofE participants, their leaders, family, and friends. They will be offering 20% off clothing and equipment. The event will take place on Friday 20th March, 4pm–7pm, at: Millets, 35 High Street, Chesham, HP5 1BW.

Year 7

- **PSHE** - This week we are looking at romantic 'relationships on screen' - explaining the influences on relationship expectations; identifying differences between off-screen and on-screen relationships and evaluating reasons why and how representations of relationships on-screen are different relationships off-screen. This will include a short **20 minute piece of homework that we would like parents to get involved with** - details will be on the PSHE Google Classroom.

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:-
 - **Wed 22 April - Year 8 Core Subjects Parents' Evening & Options Presentations (live in school);** *this is a normal parents' evening for core subjects only, with an additional presentation from all of the Heads of Departments to outline what their subject looks like at GCSE*
 - **Weds 29 April - Year 8 Options Parents' Evening (online);** *this is a normal parents' evening for option subjects only - please only book appointments with the subjects being considered for GCSE*
 - **Thurs 30 April - GCSE options form released to Year 8 students**
 - **Fri 8 May - deadline for Year 8 GCSE options form submission**
- **Year 8 Parents' Evenings:** [letter](#)

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](#)
- **Friday 27th March ItHappens workshop on Sextortion:** including, Financially Motivated Image Extortion, Influence of feelings, fear & shame, How to recognise a Sextortion attempt, Pressure, peer behaviours & choices, Images, AI & abusive behaviours, and How to report & remove

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

- **Prom letter:** [here](#)
- **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](#)
- **Friday 27th March Ithappens workshop on Choice, Fertility & Families,** Contraceptive options, Male fertility & sperm, Pregnancy & choices (including abortion), Understanding emergency contraception, Femtech, period tracking & online misinformation, and Families of the next generation.
- **University Open Days :** Students are encouraged to begin exploring university and conservatoire options by attending open days. Click [here](#) to view a list of upcoming university open days. Students will be authorised up to three days of leave of absence during term time for this purpose, although we ask that visits are arranged on weekends or school holidays where possible. To request leave, parents or carers should email sixthformabsence@swbgs.com stating the date of absence and the name of the university being visited. Please note that while every care has been taken to provide the correct dates, students should verify arrangements from University websites before booking travel.
- **End of Year Exams :** Year 12 end of year exams will be held from Monday 27 April to Friday 8 May 2026. The assessment schedule will be issued in due course. Study leave will be granted during this period.

Year 13

- **Easter Revision Sessions:** [letter](#) and [timetable](#)
- **UCAS :** Students should keep an eye on emails for correspondence from universities about offers and any further action they require. Deadlines for replying to your UCAS offers:

Last decision received:

On or before 31 March 2026

On or before 13 May 2026

On or before 15 July 2026

Reply date:

6 May 2026

3 June 2026

22 July 2026

Here is [UCAS guidance](#) on making the right decision, and [further information](#) about making the right decisions for confirming firm and insurance choices.

- **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...



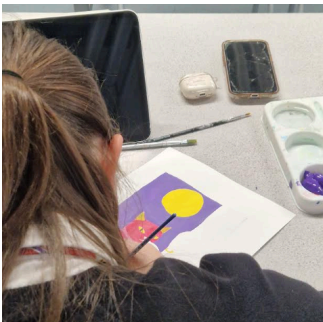
Loaded with superstition as it is, we have reached Friday 13th this week without too much trouble and we can hopefully navigate the next few hours without incident. However, despite the daffodils, daisies and blossom around the school site (do check out the Instagram page [@borlasegrammar](#) for proof), telling us that Spring is here, it's going to be a chilly night for those camping on the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award practice expedition.



Last Friday we celebrated the second Borlase Iftar event in school and it was lovely to welcome new faces and families to the event, as well as many who had attended last year including a number of returning Year 14s. It was lovely to have so many members of the Borlase community present who are either observing Ramadan or attended out of curiosity or solidarity. We are grateful to Dr Gulamabbas Lakha for his speech and to Lewis, our Head Chef, for the extraordinarily good food with which participants enjoyed breaking their fast.



On Wednesday evening it was the Poetry by Heart competition. Although it is a relatively small event on the Borlase calendar, students from Years 7 to 11 demonstrated incredible memory skills and confidence to not only remember the words to but also perform with great emotion works from eminent poets and people including Byron, Joanna Baillie, Wilfred Owen, Felicie Hemans and even W.E.B. du Bois whom I remember teaching about many years ago in an A Level Civil Rights course. Congratulations to Zachary, Varsha, and Pipe who will move forward to the regional heats while audience members were treated to Rufus and Piper's performances of extracts from *Julius Caesar* and *Macbeth* which they will be performing at the Shakespeare by Heart competition later in the year.



In academic studies, the sound of electric sanders, lathes and drills at lunch times, as well as the number of students in the Art classrooms is a reminder that we are approaching deadlines for the different GCSE NEAs (Non-Examined Assessments, or coursework to those of an older generation). Having had the Drama performances last week, this week the Theatre hosted the GCSE and A Level Dance students who seemed delighted by their performances and relieved that they were over, in equal measure.



On the river today, the senior crews from the Borlase Boat Club were in action at the Schools' Head of the River Race on the Tideway against the best crews from up and down the country over a gruelling 6,800m course. Some very strong performances saw the Open 4x- placing 3rd, the Women's 4x- placing 9th, and the Open 8+ placing 16th in Schools 1st 8s in only their 2nd ever race!

In conversation prior to the Poetry by Heart evening, Mr Robson passed on that he had heard on the radio that morning that there were now just 4,000 pipe organs in the United Kingdom, compared with over 40,000 some 15 years ago. One of them is in the Borlase Chapel and it played out proudly after my assemblies this last fortnight which picked up the theme of the Turner Prize as a means to explore the concept of competition and performances which are deemed to be better or worse, relative to others. Focussing on personal improvement, and avoiding status anxiety, were the messages; things, hopefully, that we can all strive for.

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.