



Headteacher's Letter: Friday 27 March, 2026

Upcoming Events

Wed 1 April	J16-18 Rowing Camp, Soustons, France, 1-7 April
Mon 13 April	School Starts at 8.40am
Thur 16 April	It happens workshops for year 13, 12 and 11
Fri 17 April	STEM Dinner
Mon 20 April	Year 11 Theatre Trip to Macbeth - Revision on Tour
Wed 22 April	Year 9 Drama Theatre Trip to Blood Brothers
Thur 23 April	Senior Concert: tickets Letter
Thur 30 April	Year 11 Drama Theatre trip to Noughts and Crosses
Fri 8 May	Comedy Night Tickets now on sale Click HERE

The Friends of Borlase



Upcoming Events: Save the Date!

Thu 23 April - Senior Concert

Fri 8 May - Comedy Night; Tickets now on sale [Click HERE](#)

Thu 25 June - Summer Concert

Thu 9 July - 'Borlase Unplugged' Summer Festival



The Medical Newsletter

Every year, a number of Borlase students will go off to study Medicine or a related course. Now, our budding medics have got together to publish the first *Medical Newsletter* [here](#), bringing you articles about ADHD, meningitis and whether psychedelics are the future of psychiatry.



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

PLEASE 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 but we have only had 28 responses so far! **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.

Information and Reminders

Whole School

- **Vaccination Advice From Buckinghamshire Public Health:** As you are aware, the news has been discussing the serious cases of Meningitis in Kent. As a consequence we have asked Buckinghamshire Public Health for guidance for all parents. Please read [Here](#)

- **The National Year of Reading Recommendation:** [Students](#) and [Adults](#)
- **Readathon Sponsored Read - Year 7 to 9:** [Letter](#)
- Buckinghamshire NHS Careers: After School talks - Open to year 7 and above, on:
 - Nursing and Midwifery 30 April
 - Psychology 2 July
 - Medicine 16 July
 - Booking and information [Here](#)
- **Senior Concert 23 April:** Tickets now on sale - please book early to avoid disappointment [Letter](#)
- **Detentions:** after Easter, after-school detentions will return to Fridays, 15:35-16:35.

Year 7

- STEM On Track is a national challenge for KS3 and KS4 students, where young people build their own racing karts, learn the STEM theory behind it and race against other competing schools Please click [Here](#) for more information
- **Bushcraft trip 15–17 June - tent groups.** We have spoken to the year group today about tent allocations. Student tents for the trip will be approx groups of 6. We will send a form out for pupils to name three people that they would like to share a tent with. Tent sizes are 6. Choices **MUST** be same (ie. boy/girl). **We will do our best to ensure you are with at least one of your choices. If students have any questions please ask them to come and speak to someone in KS3 office.**
- **Bushcraft trip 15th–17th June - online parent info session: 5:00pm on Thursday 14th May 2026** [LINK TO SESSION](#)
- **Sports clubs in summer term** - sports clubs will change as we move into the summer term. Information will be available to the students and on the portals.
- **PSHE next term** - we will begin a series of lessons raising awareness of learning disabilities and autism followed by lessons on how to revise in preparation for their end of year assessments (assessments from 11th May for 2 weeks in classrooms - more info to follow next term)

Year 8

- STEM On Track is a national challenge for KS3 and KS4 students, where young people build their own racing karts, learn the STEM theory behind it and race against other competing schools Please click [Here](#) for more information
- **HPV Vaccinations 22 May for Year 8:** [Letter and consent](#)
- **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

- STEM On Track is a national challenge for KS3 and KS4 students, where young people build their own racing karts, learn the STEM theory behind it and race against other competing schools Please click [Here](#) for more information
- **Year 9 theatre trip to War Horse, 8 July 2026:** [letter](#)

Year 10

- STEM On Track is a national challenge for KS3 and KS4 students, where young people build their own racing karts, learn the STEM theory behind it and race against other competing schools Please click [Here](#) for more information
- **Year 10 Drama trip to A Midsummer Night's Dream, 1 July 2026:** [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

- STEM On Track is a national challenge for KS3 and KS4 students, where young people build their own racing karts, learn the STEM theory behind it and race against other competing schools Please click [Here](#) for more information
- **Revision Support During the Easter Break - A Quiet Place to Study:** [letter](#)
- **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:** [timetable](#) Students who have sessions booked have received an email outlining the sessions they are attending.
- **Thursday 16 April 2026 - We welcome back ItHappens for workshops on substances:** [Keeping Safe at Festivals](#): A focus on fun, freedom and safety at Festivals & Events; Adolescent Brain rewards systems, risk & PFC; Data around illegal substances: risks, mixing, strength, unknowns; Harm Reduction & drug testing; The 5 Ds: be an active bystander; How to ask for help if things go wrong

Sixth Form

- **Summer 2026 Public Exams** [letter](#)
- **Revision Support During the Easter Break - A Quiet Place to Study:** [letter](#)

Year 12

- **Year 12 Biology Biodiversity and Conservation Field Trip, 23 June 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Easter Revision Sessions for AS Further Maths:** [letter](#) Students who have sessions booked have received an email outlining the sessions they are attending.
- **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. Study leave will be granted during this period. **Here is the [timetable](#) and [handbook](#).**
- **Thursday 16 April 2026 - We're pleased to welcome back ItHappens for an engaging workshop on Substances: Spiking Deep Dive.** We will explore what spiking is, the law surrounding it, the different

types of spiking, student insights and experiences, key signs to look out for, and where and who to turn to for help, all aimed at raising awareness and helping keep our community safe.

Year 13

- **Easter Revision Sessions:** [timetable](#) Students who have sessions booked have received an email outlining the sessions they are attending.
- **Thursday 16 April 2026 – We welcome back ItHappens for an insightful workshop on Substances: Next Chapter**, exploring the complexities of being away from home, navigating new friendships and challenges, travelling and gap years, the realities of Freshers and Welcome Week, understanding substances through drug, set and setting, and how to access support services while away from home.
- **Leavers' Celebrations - Thursday 7 May 2026, 10.15am:** Parents of Year 13s are warmly invited to join us for tea and speeches on Cloisters Lawn at 10:15am on Thursday, 7 May 2026. Click [here](#) to view the letter of invitation and information on how to reserve places.
- **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: **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

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



At the end of a short but busy term, the final week before the Easter break has provided more opportunities for students to take part in a wide range of activities beyond their lessons and beyond the school walls.

Having sought to recognise Kayin and Lizzie for their musical contributions last week (while Ellie, Harley, Matthew and so many others would have been equally worthy of note), they were both finalists in the distinguished Bucks Musician of the Year competition last weekend.



While they were playing saxophone, students in Year 10 were on their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award practice expedition. While they would have been out come rain or shine, the weather last weekend was as good as it could be in March to spend two nights in a tent and, once again, they received lavish compliments from their instructors for their conduct and enthusiasm.

Having announced the new Captaincy team last week, we welcomed the Student Research Captains, Bea and Maya to our SLT meeting on Wednesday where they presented their study looking at the role of Academic Mentoring at Borlase and their training guide for Year 12 Academic Mentors to help them overcome the challenges they may face when working with students in Years 10 or 11 to support their academic progress. At the same time, the aspiring medics in Med Soc have produced their first journal which you can access via the link above, summarising the latest developments in the medical world.



On Wednesday and Thursday evenings the Theatre hosted the two annual dance shows titled *Synergy* with spectacular performances from the A Level and GCSE Dance students alongside other cross-year groups and some very talented Year 7s. While the technical prowess was there for all to see, there were also some jaw-dropping lifts and flips which entertained the audiences. Earlier on Thursday, there was similar intensity in the finals of the House Debating competition finals.





Rounding off the week, Year 7 were at Windsor Castle, developing their understanding of medieval life to round off their studies so far this year, and to provide real context for their wonderful entries into this year's Castle Competition which Mr Mead hailed as the best yet.

Congratulations go to A Level Art student, Amy, who won the Henley Arts Trail's 'Judith Fletcher Memorial Prize' and will have her work displayed at The River House, Greenlands, from 2nd to 4th May, one of the most visited locations on the trail!

And finally we sign off with a farewell to Mr Hall who retires after 18 years as Head of Art at Borlase. Not just a teacher of Art but a published author, sculptor, and artist (and former world record-holder in tandem paraglider and jigsaw completion), Mr Hall has inspired and guided hundreds of students through their Art courses at Borlase, including Amy above, and we wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.



Have a wonderful and well-earned Easter break

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.