



Headteacher's Letter: Friday 17 April, 2026

Upcoming Events

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
Thur 30 April	Year 11 Drama Theatre Trip to Noughts and Crosses
Thur 7 May	Year 10 Drama Theatre Trip to The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui
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 Summer Unplugged' Festival



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

Please, **PLEASE, 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 71 responses so far! **It will be closing after this weekend and we would love to have as many responses as possible.** It takes approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Information and Reminders

Whole School

- The Borlase Politics Review, written by Year 12 Government and Politics students: [here](#)
- Buckinghamshire School Nurses have now set up a text service: Details [Here](#)
- **Old Borlasians "Summer Social"** expression of interest form: [here](#)
- 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](#)
- **Detentions:** after Easter, after-school detentions will return to Fridays, 15:35-16:35.
- **Senior Concert:** tickets for this event are now sold out. If you wish to be added to a waiting list, please contact boxoffice@swbgs.com
- On 1st April, 2026 Spinfield and Burford Primary schools were welcomed officially into the Marlow Education Trust.

Year 7

- **Year 7 Strength and Conditioning, Summer term:** [letter](#)
- **PSHE - Challenging disablist language and behaviour** - We are starting some work with year 7s where we will be learning about the place of people with learning disabilities and autism within a diverse society; and about the challenges faced by people with learning disabilities and autism, including others' preconceptions, lack of awareness and understanding, discrimination and disablist bullying.
- **Bushcraft trip 15-17 June - online parent info session: 5:00pm on Thursday 14 May 2026** [LINK TO SESSION](#)
- Year 7 End of year Assessments **week beginning 11 May 2026 For 2 weeks** - [INFORMATION HERE](#)

Year 8

- **Year 8 Strength and Conditioning, Summer term:** [letter](#)
- **UKSA** - Please find attached [a parent information pack from UKSA](#) in preparation for the upcoming Year 8 UKSA trip from Tuesday 30 June to Friday 3 July. In addition we would like to invite you to an online parent meeting on **Thursday 30 April from 5.30 - 6.00** for further information (including specific timings and detail) and to answer any questions you may have. The link for the parent meeting is [here](#). Please fill out [this google form](#) for any questions you may have ahead of the parent meeting so we can address them at the meeting. This information has also been emailed to you.
- **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](#)
- **PSHE** - we are beginning lessons on loss and bereavement - exploring **the nature of grief** and the many emotions **someone might feel** when a person they care about dies followed with ways in which we can **remember** someone who has died and some **ways to handle grief and loss**. These lessons are put together by the charity [winstonswish.org](#)

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](#). Deadline extended to 22 April.

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
- **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](#)

Sixth Form

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

Year 12

- **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](#).**

Year 13

- **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.
- Borlase Year 13 Leavers Hoodies: [Letter](#)
- **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



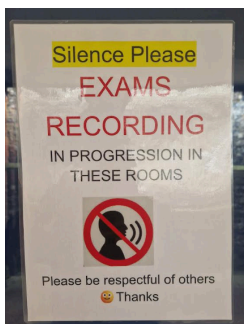
There is no hiding from this having been a very difficult Easter break and week to return to school. We remembered Alina in our whole school assembly at the beginning of the week and our thoughts continue to be with her family and friends, and all who knew her. Nevertheless, I hope that you have all had enjoyable breaks and have returned from it feeling refreshed and ready for the term ahead.



Over the break there remained plenty of school activity. Some very lucky Year 10s were on the ski trip to Jasper in Canada where they enjoyed excellent snow conditions, and sampled some Canadian culture having made the kind trip over the Atlantic. The senior rowers were in Soustans, near Bordeaux, getting in the miles on mirror-like water ahead of the upcoming regatta season. Between sessions, they were getting on with their studies and in-school we had large numbers attending the GCSE and A Level revision courses that were being hosted across a range of subjects. This will, no doubt, have paid dividends for the Year 11 students who have returned this week to complete their language oral exams ahead of the main exam season which kicks off properly next month. The Languages team have reported back very favourably on the preparation and execution by the students - *merveilleux!*



On Tuesday morning, Centenary Hall was packed out with our departing Year 13 Captains taking part in a handover session to their Year 12 counterparts who take up the baton when they return after their summer assessments. They have been performing their duties with aplomb this week and it is a bright future ahead.



This fits neatly with the theme of this and next week's Chapel assemblies. With this being their last Chapel assembly, it has been Year 13s from each of the houses who have been invited to the Chapel (and who have voted on which hymns they would most like to sing. Musing on the Artemis II mission, the assembly explored the twin themes of legacy and future aspiration, embracing the All Blacks' principle of "leaving the jersey in a better place" and considering the exciting opportunities that await our soon-to-be Leavers in their future studies, employment and adventure, armed authority the knowledge, skills, experiences and friendships that they have forged through their time at Borlase.



Having said farewell to Mr Hall at the end of last term, we have welcomed our new Head of Art, Mr Marx, to the school and we are very excited about the direction in which he and our very talented students will be taking Art at Borlase in over the next years.



I have written before about the surprises that one encounters walking around school on any given day. It appears that two students, Astrid and Olivia, have been developing their proficiency on the harmonica over the Easter break and, on several occasions this week, I have been a treated member of the audience as they refine their harmonies. We've all learned (and you could probably have guessed) that it is not possible to laugh and play the harmonica simultaneously.



I hope you have a lovely weekend

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "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.