



Headteacher's Letter: 5 December 2025

Upcoming Events

Mon 8 December	Year 12 Chemistry in Action
Tues 9 December	Year 11 <i>A Christmas Carol</i> Year 13 'Poems of the Decade' Conference
Wed 10 December	Year 10 Parents' Evening Year 12-13 BFI Trip - German
Thurs 11 December	Year 7 Trip to <i>Hercules</i>
Fri 12 December	Years 7 to 11 Flu Vaccinations Family Carol Service at All Saints Church, Marlow: Live Link
Tue 16 December	Alumni Carol Service at All Saints Church, Marlow: Live Link
Wed 17 December	Term ends at 13.30

Christmas Information:



Christmas Lunches Wednesday 10 December - Final Call

To avoid the queues at the till we will take payment for Christmas lunch in advance and allow you to make your choices so that your child can move swiftly. **Please log into ParentPay and select your options and pay** and we will issue tickets on the day - Thank you

NB All parents/carers who completed the Google Forms regarding ticket allocations for the Family and Alumni Carol Services will be contacted by email next week.

Information and Reminders

Whole School

- **Family Carol Service on Friday 12 December:** The Live Stream Link to join the service is [HERE](#)
- **Alumni Carol Service on Tuesday 16 December:** The Live Stream Link to join the service is: [HERE](#)
- **Borlasian Magazine:** Those parents/carers who ordered a copy of the Borlasian Magazine, they are now available for collection.
- **Absence:** Please could parents notify school on **each day of absence**; it is important that we know where all our students are each day and can be sure they have reached school safely.
- **Safeguarding Newsletter:** [Here](#)
- Week beginning Mon 8th December: **NHS England has commissioned the Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England Survey**, to find out about young people's attitudes to smoking, vaping, drinking and drugs. This survey has been running since 1982 and it is one of the most important national surveys of young people. One class from each of Years 8, 9 and 11 will be chosen to complete the survey. Information for parents is linked [here](#). **If you would like to withdraw your child from taking part in this study, please contact the school as soon as possible.**

Year 7

- **PSHE upcoming topics:** Year 7s will soon begin a series of lessons called 'Something Not Right' The lessons focus on recognising abuse, where young people can go for help, and overcoming barriers to reporting.

Year 8

- **Year 8 UKSA Isle Of Wight residential activity week, 30 June - 3 July 2026:** [letter](#)
- **PSHE upcoming topics:** Year 8s will soon begin a series of lessons on respect which follow on from lessons covered in Year 7. Lessons will focus on being able to understand the key concepts of human rights and their importance in our lives and relationships as well as being able to critically assess and challenge gender stereotypes and understand how these can be harmful in relationships.

Year 9

- **Year 9 Parents' Evening will be held online on Wednesday 7 January 2026:** [Letter](#)
- **Year 9 Bucks Skills Show, 4 March 2026:** [letter](#)
- **MFL - German theatre production:** [letter](#)

Year 10

- **Year 10 Parents Evening: Wed 10 December:** [letter](#)
- **MFL - German theatre production:** [letter](#)
- **MFL - Spanish theatre production:** [letter](#)
- **MFL - French theatre production:** [letter](#)

Year 11

- **Year 11 Theatre trip to Macbeth, 20 April 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 11 formal Practice Exams:** Monday 24 November - Friday 5 December - [Handbook Timetable](#)
 - On the Year 11 Google Classroom, there are revision materials, such as a revision timetable, checklists for their GCSEs and a guide on *How to Revise*.
- **NEA Subject Specific Internal Dates 2025/26:** [here](#)
- **2026 Summer Exam Series Letter:** [here](#)
- **Year 11 Study Leave:** Year 11's last day in school will be Friday 8th May

Sixth Form

Opportunity to join the Stem Cell Donor Register

Following today's presentations to Year 12 and 13 by the Anthony Nolan Trust about Stem Cell donation, a registration event will take place on **Wednesday 10 December 2025 during Period 4 and lunchtime** - the registration process involves completing an online form and providing a sample of saliva. Please encourage your son/daughter to register.

Stems Cells play a crucial role in treating life-threatening blood cancers such as leukaemia and lymphoma, as well as serious immune disorders like aplastic anaemia. The Anthony Nolan Trust recruits potential donors aged 16-30 and works to match them with patients in urgent need of life-saving treatment.

Summer 2026 Public Exams Letter: [here](#)

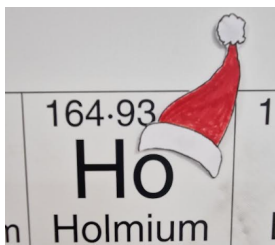
Year 12

- **Captain and Prefect Applications:** Earlier today, Mr Hussain shared a Google Form with Year 12 students to register their interest in being a School Captain or Prefect in Year 13. The selection process begins with applications and performing duties in the Spring Term, and is followed by a student and staff vote, selection event, and interviews with final roles announced before the Easter break.
- **Year 12 English Literature A Level Set Texts:** [letter](#)
- **Year 12 Physics in Action, 13 March 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 12 Psychology in Action, 5 March 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 12(13) Physics Educational Visit to Iceland, 12-15 February 2027:** [letter](#)

Year 13

- **Please find attached the timetable and the Regulations Handbook for the Formal Practice Exams starting 6 January:** [here](#) and [here](#)
- **University & Apprenticeship Interviews 2025/26** - Permission form to be completed by parents/carers for all absences from school: [Letter and Permissions Form](#)
- If your son/daughter has not yet completed their UCAS 'pay and send', please encourage them to do so as soon as possible (original deadline was 3 November 2025). All applications must be submitted by 3.30pm on Tuesday 16 December 2025.
- Students are now beginning to receive invitations for university interviews. If your son or daughter is invited, please ask them to inform Mrs Murgatroyd so that practice interviews can be arranged.
- **Important Calendar Dates**
 - **Year 13 Mock Exams:** Tue 6 January 2026 - Monday 19 January 2026. Study leave is granted during this period. Click [here](#) to view the assessment timetable..
 - **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...



This week's round-up begins before last weekend with the much-vaunted 'Under the Lights' rugby matches being played out at Marlow Rugby Club last Friday. It was great to see so much support there for both schools. The U15s recorded a thrilling 17-17 result, overcoming a 0-17 deficit at half time while the 1st XV romped home to a convincing 47-3 victory. Promises made about flying flags will be kept once certain censorship has taken place. Through this week there have been fixtures at all age levels against Dr Challoner's Grammar School which finished today with the Year 7s playing on two pitches sharing the honours with a 6-0 victory and narrow 7-6 loss. Playing on the field was Henry, cheered on by Mum, Lucy, and grandad, John, who made a line-up of three generations of Borlasians! Meanwhile, our Girls U16 indoor hockey team has been competing in the National Finals being held at Repton School. News just in: they came a very credible 5th place overall - well done!

Over the last fortnight, Mrs Walder's Chapel Assembly picked up on the action (and inaction) from the COP30 summit being held in Belém, Brazil. The emblematic word to emerge from the conference was *mutirão*, a Portuguese word meaning 'collective effort', capturing the need for the global community to come together to prevent irreversible damage and climate change. It was wonderful to see students putting this into practice at the first Model United Nations Conference to be held at Borlase on Saturday, organised by Simran and Aleeza, and remarked by attending delegates to be "the best they'd ever been to"!

The quickest glance at the calendar shows that there is no escaping that Christmas is coming and on Tuesday evening (following a meeting of the trustees of the Borlase Scholarships and Wethered Trust, and the AGM of the Old Borlasian Club), Mr Robson's wonderfully curated Advent Concert was played out to a very appreciative audience in the Wethered Room featuring music from Vivaldi and Bach and readings from D. H. Lawrence and Dickens among others. If you want to get further into the Christmas spirit (and you subscribe to Disney+), very excitingly, Gia in Year 10 is playing the part of Mary in *The Story of the First Christmas* alongside some other actor called Kevin Costner. It will be released on 10 December in the UK.

Today we had a representative of the Anthony Nolan Trust speaking to members of Years 11, 12 and 13 about the UK stem cell register. We speak regularly about the importance of service in the Sixth Form - it is the lynchpin of the work of our school Captains and Prefects - and it was hugely gratifying to see the number of students who were interested in providing cheek swabs and potentially saving lives.

This week's standout event has to be the Strictly Finals on Thursday night. An event which seems to have got bigger and better over the last three years, it was great to welcome in a capacity crowd to witness the culmination of 8 weeks of hard work by the 32 dancers who took to the floor and the tireless coaching and tuition by our Dance team under the expert leadership of Mrs Robinson. We welcomed Tom Chambers, winner of the BBC Strictly glitter ball trophy in 2008, to our judging team alongside Harriet Seymour and Max Bignall (OBs 2025) who are both now studying at the prestigious Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance... and me. The standard of performance was outstanding but there could only be one winner and Tor and Jemima received the Glitter Ball from last year's winners, Allegra and Dexter.

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.