



Headteacher's Letter: 28 November 2025

Upcoming Events

Mon 1 December	Year 10 Frantic Assembly Workshop
Tue 2 December	Advent Concert
Thurs 4 December	Strictly Come Dancing; Tickets
Fri 5 December	Dance Trip Matthew Bourne's <i>The Red Shoes</i> - Sadlers Wells
Mon 8 December	Year 12 Chemistry in Action
Tues 9 December	Year 11 A Christmas Carol
	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 Hercules
Fri 12 December	Years 7 to 11 Flu Vaccinations
	Family Carol Service

Christmas Information:



Christmas Lunches Wednesday 10 December

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



Family and Alumni Carol Services Fr 12 and Tues 16 December

As per our note last week, All Saints has limited capacity due to fire regulations. We have agreed a process to prioritise and allocate seating fairly, and request your understanding of our efforts. **For both services we will give priority to family members of the students in the choir:** Friday 12th will feature all choirs (Years 7 to 13) and Tuesday 16th will feature Years 10 to 13.

NB. The services will be live streamed and a link will be sent to everyone.

- **Years 7 to 9:** On Monday 1 December we will send out a Google Form to parents/carers of the Choir inviting you to attend the service. Only one ticket per family is available and we need responses by Wed 3.
- **Years 10-13:** On Wednesday 3 December we will send a Google Form to the parents/carers of the Choir inviting you to 16 December and to any remaining tickets on the 12th. If demand outstrips supply we will allocate on the basis of first come first served. Responses are required by Fri 5 December

In both cases the Google Forms will be scheduled to go out at 6pm. Any remaining tickets will be made available on Ticketsource.

Information and Reminders

Whole School

- **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.
- **Borlase Strictly Come Dancing Tickets for 4 December:** Tickets now on sale: [letter](#)

Year 7

- **Year 7 Religious studies - Neasden Temple, 9 January 2026:** [letter](#)

Year 8

- **Year 8 UKSA Isle Of Wight residential activity week, 30 June - 3 July 2026:** [letter](#)
- 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 year 8 class will be chosen to complete the survey. Information for parents is linked in [HERE](#)
If you would like to withdraw your child from taking part in this study, please contact the school as soon as possible.

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](#)
- 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 year 9 class will be chosen to complete the survey. Information for parents is linked in [HERE](#)
If you would like to withdraw your child from taking part in this study, please contact the school as soon as possible.

Year 10

- **Year 10 Drama trip to Playboy of the Western World, 15 January 2026:** [letter](#)
- **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
- 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 year 11 class will be chosen to complete the survey. Information for parents is linked in [HERE](#)
If you would like to withdraw your child from taking part in this study, please contact the school as soon as possible.

Sixth Form

Opportunity to join the Stem Cell Donor Register

We have arranged a visit from the Anthony Nolan Trust on Friday 5 December. Representatives will be speaking to Borlase Sixth Form students about the possibility of joining the Stem Cell donor 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. The registration event will take place at school on Wednesday 10 December during the day where Sixth Form students will have the option to provide a cheek swab sample and join the register. This is a meaningful opportunity for students to make a real difference and potentially save a life in the future.

2026 Public Exams

2026 Summer Exam Series Letter: [here](#)

Year 12

Higher Education Pathway Programmes

1. **University of Bath:** Applications for the next intake of [Pathway to Bath](#) are open now. This blended programme for Year 12 students from widening participation backgrounds offers:
 - An opportunity to work on an undergraduate topic in a subject of their choice alongside academic tutors and undergraduate mentors;
 - An opportunity to attend a free 3 day residential at the University of Bath.
 - The opportunity to receive a guaranteed conditional offer to the University of Bath.Click [here](#) to view the eligibility criteria to join this programme.
 2. **Nottingham University:** [Ambition : 16-18 programme](#) is available. This is a two year scheme offering:
 - Subject taster sessions with university professors;
 - Q&As with current students;
 - Information on how to choose your course and university, student finance and accommodation;
 - Advice and guidance on the university selection processes;
 - VIP attendance to their Open Day.
- **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)
- 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 a 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. Details of timing of exams will be communicated in due course.
 - **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...



TFI Friday and what an end to the week it has been (and is yet to be). The third annual Borlase Culture Day surpassed anything that we have seen in previous years thanks to the work of Mr Tekerian, our Equalities Captains, and so many sundry supporters. Cultural costumes were on display all around the school as students proudly celebrated our diverse heritage. Meanwhile the foyer of Centenary Hall was teeming with students and staff, eager to sample the various culinary delights on offer, play games, translate texts and enjoy the general buzz. Earlier in the day (when the technology was working), students had to make an educated guess at what various staff members were saying in their native (or non-native) languages including the irrepressible Ms Watson delivering lines in Latvian, Russian, French, German, Italian, and Ukrainian! Once you are reading this, down at Marlow Rugby Club the U15 and U18 Boys' rugby teams will have completed the final fixtures of this week's fantastic series of matches between Borlase and GMS with full results and pictures to be shared over the weekend on Instagram ([@borlasegrammar](https://www.instagram.com/borlasegrammar)).

On Wednesday we welcomed Aarav Band (OB2025) back into school from his first term studying Medicine at UCL to speak to aspiring Medics about the application and interview process. It was lovely to hear Aarav speak with such passion and authority about his chosen pathway. I was somewhat wide-eyed as he told me of his enthusiasm about beginning his first dissections in January. Elsewhere across the school, many Year 13s have been hearing back from their chosen universities and practice interviews have been taking place in various offices and corners of the school to help students prepare for the next rounds of selection.

Last week OBs from a little longer ago were in school to enjoy the Old Borlasian Club Curry Night in the Stuart Lever room. Toasts were made and old friends came together, marking the longevity of the relationships forged within the school and the members' enduring fondness for the school and their time here.

Throughout this week we have enjoyed welcoming our Exchange partners from the Gymnasium Saarbuck in the 32nd iteration of the exchange programme. This year they were accompanied by their Headteacher, Herr Schreiner, with whom I spent a very enjoyable break time comparing the German and British education systems. The students seem to have had a wonderful time with their visit to the Harry Potter Warner Bros. tour and 'Full English' breakfast in the Canteen. Thank you to all of our families who have welcomed exchange partners this week.

On Thursday, our Sports Captains had arranged for a Staff vs Students Ultimate Frisbee match on the Astro and an associated bake sale to raise money for the Movember Foundation, raising awareness of men's health issues. Notorious for not talking about things, Movember is a great way for everyone to be reminded of the importance of opening up to friends, to family, and to seeking out medical support sooner rather than later if you suspect things aren't right.

Have a great weekend and... *Come on, Borlase!* 🍌

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to 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.