

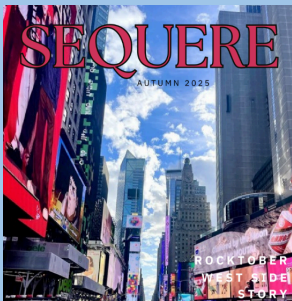


Headteacher's Letter: 14 November 2025

Upcoming Events

Sat 15 November	Year 12-13 Mock trial at Oxford Crown Court, 9am - 4pm
Mon 17 November	House Music Heats All Week
Wed 19 November	Friends of Borlase Wreath Making
Thurs 20 November	KS5 Physics Workshop and Careers talk, Royal Grammar School Autumn Concert (7pm) - tickets
Sat 22 November	Year 10 German Exchange, German students in UK, 22-28 November Year 13 Physics UK Space Design Competition, Imperial College, London
Mon 24 November	Year 11 Mocks Start
Tues 25 November	Year 7 Tutor Review Meetings
Wed 26 November	Year 10 German Exchange joint trip to Warner Bros Studios
Fri 28 November	Culture Day Rugby 🏉: Borlase vs GMS "Under the Lights" at Marlow Rugby Club

Sequere - the Autumn edition



This term's visually stunning edition of the Captains' Magazine, *Sequere*, is [here!](#)

There's an American vibe with a cast reveal of this year's Senior Musical, *West Side Story*, and an insider report from the Sixth Form students' recent visit to Washington and New York as well as a look back to Rocktober, School Cross Country, the MFL Bake Off, various sporting encounters, as well as sections from International Relations Soc, FemSoc and Girls in STEM, as well as an Arts section with the poetry competition winners!



Road Safety & Courtesy



As the mornings and evenings get colder and darker a somber reminder of the wise words of Deputy Head, Win Patterson, with whom I worked at a previous school. In an assembly each year, he would list the different things he had seen killed on the road outside the school. The first time I heard it, he pointed at me, stood c44 feet from him, and said that was the stopping distance of a car travelling at 30mph.



1. Please talk to your children to remind them about road safety,
2. Please be courteous when dropping your children off at school, mindful of Marlow's traffic flow. A member of the public informed us of an incident this week when an unknown Borlase parent pulled over on West Street causing a minor disruption. When challenged, they got out of their car and displayed behaviours that we would not expect of any of our students, leading me to have to issue an ashamed and unreserved apology on their behalf.

Information and Reminders

Whole School

- **Borlase Strictly Come Dancing Tickets for 4 December:** are going on sale at 7pm tonight: [Letter](#)
- **Term Dates 2026-27:** [Here](#)
- **Flu Vaccinations for Students in Years 7 to 11:** [letter](#)
- **Social Media Safety Guide:** A quick look guide from The Children's Society [here](#)
- **Autumn Concert - Thursday 20 November, 7pm:** [tickets letter](#)
- **Online Blackmail/Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion:** Students in years 8, 9, 10 and 11 have had, or will have, lessons this term on Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion (sometimes referred to as sextortion). This is when an offender threatens to release nude or semi-nude images and/or videos of a victim, unless they pay money or meet another financial demand, such as buying a prepaid gift card. Victims of any age and gender can be targets, however a large proportion of cases involve male victims aged 14-17. It's important to remember that **a child or young person is never to blame if they have been blackmailed online**. Offenders will have tricked, groomed and/or manipulated them into sharing an image, or created digitally manipulated images of them. The reality is that it could happen to anyone.

Year 7 will be having an assembly from Ms Harper (Safeguarding Lead) to talk about dangers online and this will be at an age-appropriate level

Parental advice on talking to your child about this topic and ways you can support them and access help if needed is linked in [here](#).

Year 7

- Some students and parents have raised concerns regarding a type of **WhatsApp** group known as 'Add Everyone', with some students in SWBGS being affected. These groups can expose children to explicit and harmful material. There have been a couple of active groups in particular highlighted to us. If your child uses WhatsApp we would encourage you to explore their account together and discuss openly any issues at hand. Some guidance from a reputable site (this is a NI government site) is linked in here giving more details about the problem and advice on how to protect and care for your children. saferschoolsni.co.uk
- **Year 7 Tutor Review Meetings** - Tuesday 25 November 2025 [letter](#)
- [Bounce Forward](#) link here to **4,500 FREE parent places available to the highly rated 'Raise Resilience'**; this will help parents and complement the 12 resilience lessons we teach across Years 7 and 8 in PSHE.
- TDS Bronze Award - this week we are launching the school award with the Year 7s. Speak to your child about the award. This [link](#) provides more detail.

Year 8

- **Uniform:** Year 8s should only come to school in kit on the days they have Dance (not Games or P.E).
- **Year 8 UKSA Isle Of Wight residential activity week, 30 June - 3 July 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Flu Vaccinations for Students in Years 7 to 11:** [letter](#)

Year 9

- **Drama Theatre Trip to A Christmas Carol Goes Wrong, 5 February 2026:** [letter](#)
- **PSHE - It Happens workshops:** [letter](#)

Year 10

- **Year 10 Parents Evening: Wed 10 December:** [Letter](#)
- **Year 10 Creative Writing trip to Dorset 3-5 July 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Drama - Frantic Assembly 1 December - Year 10:** On Monday 1 December we have the Frantic Assembly Theatre Company coming in during the school day to work with our Year 10 students. They will be learning advanced techniques and skills to help them with their devising assessment. Students

need to bring in their PE kit for the workshop - they will change into it before their workshop and then back into uniform afterwards. With thanks, Berj Tekerian - Head of Drama

- **PSHE - It Happens workshops:** [letter](#)

Year 11

- **Y11 Drama theatre trip to Playboy of the Western World, 15 January 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](#)
- **PSHE - It Happens workshops:** [letter](#)
- **Year 11 Study Leave:** Year 11's last day in school will be Friday 8th May
- As Year 11 students begin their final full term of teaching, and set targets for their revision before the summer GCSE exams, this may be a good time to review the expert tips from our parent webinar last Autumn on supporting revision skills at home, with William Wadsworth of Exam Study Expert: *Exam Success: a Parent's Guide webinar* slides linked [here](#). Webinar recording linked [here](#). William worked with students in October.

Sixth Form

Exam certificates

For those who took their exams at Borlase in the summer - GCSEs or AS levels - certificates will be issued through tutor groups next week. Parents/Carers, please ask your child for the envelope as there is only ever one certificate produced and school cannot keep copies. Replacement certificates cost in the region of £50 each, and most students have at least 2, so it is important that they are kept safely.

For those who took A level exams at Borlase in the summer, or who left at the end of year 11, certificates will be available for collection from the middle of next week and the instructions for how students should approach this can be found [here](#) on the school website.

- **Year 12-13 English and Drama theatre trip to All My Sons, 28 January 2026:** [letter](#)
- **2026 Summer Exam Series Letter:** [here](#)
- **PSHE - It Happens workshops:** [letter](#)

Year 12

- **Year 12(13) History, Politics and Economics Educational Visit to USA 16-24 October 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 12 Drama trip to Les Liaisons Dangereuses at National Theatre, 14 May 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 12 Work Experience:** Students are invited to complete up to three days of work experience between 3 November 2025 and 4 July 2026. Placements should be arranged independently, ideally using personal or family contacts. The school will also share opportunities through the weekly Sixth Form briefing. Where possible, work experience should take place during school holidays, however, leave of absence during term time may be granted if necessary; please ensure a request form is completed in advance. All placements must be recorded and approved on Unifrog at least three weeks prior to beginning a placement. Parents are also asked to ensure that students share any relevant health or personal information, such as allergies, injuries, disabilities or diagnoses with employers, so that appropriate workplace adjustments can be made. Students may conduct work experience over the summer holidays if necessary.

Year 13

- **University & Apprenticeship Interviews 2025/26** - Permission form to be completed by parents/carers for all absences from school: [Letter and Permissions Form For all Y13 Parents](#)
- **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...



After Remembrance Sunday was marked in Marlow and across the country last weekend, our Borlase commemoration took place on Tuesday 11th with members of the School Voice Committee joining the Chapel Choir, staff and Old Borlasians for the Remembrance Service in the Chapel before joining the rest of the school on the netball courts where readings continued focussed on the 85th anniversary of the evacuation of Dunkirk and the 80th anniversary of the end of the wars in Europe and the Pacific. The choir sang a haunting a capella rendition of *Abide With Me* and members of the cadet forces performed a flag ceremony and read the names of the 36 Old Borlasians who fell in the Second World War before the 2 minutes' silence was observed, with *The Last Post* and *Reveille* sounded by trumpeters Harley and Alexis.

After hearing a talk by the historian (and very disappointing *Celebrity Traitors* finalist), David Olusoga, the last fortnight's Chapel Assemblies have focussed on what it means to be British. From John of Gaunt's mourning of "this scepter'd isle" in Shakespeare's *Richard II* to the examination of Winston Churchill, voted Greatest Briton in 2002 and chicken tikka masala (invented by a Pakistani-born, Glasgow chef if you didn't know), our concept of nationhood, national memory, and understanding of this island's history has been examined in Remembrance Week as we head towards Culture Day later this month.

Although unseasonably warm this week, we have nevertheless had to close the field to students at break and lunch to preserve its use for fixtures and to prevent mud being trailed around the school. Nevertheless, Borlase students have been creative and resilient in equal measure as they occupy themselves with card games, standing jump competitions and persevere with 'one bounce' on the rainy courts!

Sport continues nevertheless. Our indoor hockey teams have performed brilliantly, placing first in all the U18 and U16 area finals. Only the U18 Girls have played the regional round, losing narrowly to Wellington College in the final having beaten hockey heavyweights, Peter Symonds College, in the semi-final. Borlase hosted 16 teams of 6 players from 7 schools in a chess tournament on Thursday with Borlase A narrowly losing to Aylesbury Grammar on a tie break. The rowers were on the Tideway in London, racing 6.8km in the Junior Fours Head. With some very impressive performances in very wet conditions, the Borlase Open 4x- were the second fastest boat of the 275 starters to complete the course.

After trumpeting the UKLO last week (how many of you had a go at the past questions?!), the MFL Team has been busy again with the GCSE mock oral exams taking place and with A Level Spanish and French students visiting the British Film Institute for screenings of *Volver* and *La Haine* respectively. Meanwhile, John in Year 13 scored an incredible 125/125 in the Senior Maths Challenge (never before achieved by a Borlase student), qualifying for the Maths Olympiad.

And finally, with the top lips of a number of staff members and Sixth Form students, we are once again getting behind the Movember campaign. There will be charity events taking place in school, culminating in the U15 and 1st XV "Under the Lights" rugby matches against Great Marlow School on Friday 28 November. I look forward to seeing you there!

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.