



## THE BORLASE REVIEW

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# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the May half-term edition of The Borlase Review.

We are in the middle of the summer term, I'm told, but the weather has been decidedly unseasonal. This year has borne witness to a number of transitions already, in certain staffing positions and also in buildings and their use, and there will be more to come, I'm sure.

It is an annually recurring blessing and curse to see a group of students reach the high point of their time at high school education, achieving a level of maturity and readiness for the next stage in their lives which simultaneously brings great happiness and pride but also a wistful sadness at seeing them move on. The Leavers' Service and Tea Party marked a wonderful farewell to the Year 13s who are now conducting their A Level examinations. This group of students have made an enormous contribution to school life not only this academic year but across their time at Borlase and, certainly for me, it is hard to imagine the school without them.

However, move on they must, and so the most recent transition has been that from the outgoing School Captains and Prefects to the new Team of 2024. The group have started their term with enormous promise and, having inherited a great legacy from those who went before them, they are also a group with their own aspirations and determination; the future is bright with them on board.



Ed Goodall  
Headteacher



## Borlase 400 Update-Events Coming Shortly -Do Join Us!

### The Borlase History Exhibition & Open Day -Saturday 29 June 2024 10am-3pm (last entry 2pm) - Free entry

We are excited to announce this unique event, as part of the 400th birthday celebrations of Sir William Borlase's Grammar School in Marlow.

Please come and join us at our History Exhibition & Open Day to find out more about the past 400 years of Borlase, its present achievements and its future plans. This special event will include unique displays, live performances from current students and interactive activities.

Refreshments will also be available, as well as a range of Borlase 400 merchandise.

The school will open from 10.00am and the last entry is at 2.00pm. The school will close at 3.00pm.

Entry is free for adults and students; these free tickets can be booked [here](#).

Recommended visiting time to the Borlase History Exhibition & Open Day is approximately two hours, however you are of course welcome to spend a shorter or longer time on site between the opening times. To help plan your visit, the schedule for the live performances - which will take place throughout the day - can be found [here](#).

*(Please note, a number of students will be involved in this day as either participants or volunteers. Parents of those students will be contacted shortly).*

### The Borlase 400-Bake Off

We are thrilled to announce a special, one-off whole-school house baking competition, the Borlase 400 Bake-Off, to mark our 400th anniversary year! The theme of the competition is '400 years'. This competition offers you and your family the opportunity to earn house points, win prizes and - most importantly - to have your cake displayed, sold (with proceeds going towards the school's Here & Now fund) and eaten at the Borlase 400 History Exhibition & Open Day on Saturday 29 June!

All members of the Borlase community, including parents and families, are invited to take part! Please find all the information you need about the competition, including the form to enter, [here](#)!



or [www.ticket-source.co.uk/borlase](http://www.ticket-source.co.uk/borlase)

### The Borlase 400 Birthday Bash - Saturday 13 July 2024 3pm-10pm, Colonel's Meadow Adults £15; Students £5; Family ticket £35 (two adults/two students)

We are very pleased to announce this unique outdoor music festival, as part of the 400th birthday celebrations of Sir William Borlase's Grammar School in Marlow.

Please come and join us at the Borlase 400 Birthday Bash for an afternoon and evening of the best of Borlase Music, food and drink, attractions and entertainment, arts and crafts, stalls from local businesses and more! This will be a fantastic festival for all of the family.

The music will include both current student and alumni bands (including The Fundamentals - recent winners of The Buckinghamshire Battle of the Bands Competition), the Borlase Jazz Orchestra and Jazz Band, the Borlase choirs and smaller musical ensembles. There will also be a special performance from the JAM Theatre Company!

The food and drink will be provided from businesses across the local community. There will be a fully licensed bar and a number of other stalls and attractions, including a bouncy castle. More to be announced! Please book your tickets [here](#)!

*(Please note, a number of students will be involved in this day as performers or technicians. Parents of those students will be contacted shortly).*

**Friday, June 28th, 12.30 Borlase Cricket Match** - Old Borlasians -v- Borlase - Marlow Sports Club. Parents, Old Borlasians, Students welcome.

**Photographer Needed** - If you are a professional event photographer and would like to help us capture our Borlase 400 Events for posterity, we would love to hear from you. Do contact [kaymountfield@swbgs.com](mailto:kaymountfield@swbgs.com)/[icains@swbgs.com](mailto:icains@swbgs.com)

### Borlase 400 Giving Tree - Please Help!

We are looking for prizes, no matter how small or big, to help us raise money for school activities with a Giving Tree at the 400 Anniversary Dinner. Every gift will help! Please bring to Claire Woodgate in Reception or call us to let us know. Many thanks, Kay Mountfield.



# SIXTH FORM

## Year 13 Leavers Celebrations

The week of the May Day Bank Holiday was an emotional one for Year 13 students at Borlase, as the school marked the end of their journey at the school. Alongside looking back at two, five or seven years at the school, there was a real sense of anticipation for a future promising new opportunities and experiences for all.

What has now become something of a tradition, students wore Hawaiian shirts on Wednesday, marking their last teaching day at the school. The abundance of love and warm friendships was clear to see as students congregated in the Cloisters at break for photographs.

Then, on Thursday, following the rousing chorus of the school song, Te Digna Sequere, and readings of literature and poetry by members of the staff and student leadership teams, Mr Goodall beautifully summed up Year 13's time at Borlase ending with spontaneous applause by all in attendance.

Next, under the blazing sunshine, parents joined the leavers' tea party to be part of this special day. The School Captains and Vice Captains, Sacha, Helena, Pia, Vivek, and Neel, delivered speeches demonstrating a genuine fondness about their year group and years at the school, amusing the audience with humorous anecdotes and fond memories.

School Captains then presented flowers as a mark of respect and gratitude to members of the school's leadership and the Sixth Form pastoral teams, including Student Support Officers Mrs Furley, Mrs Bull and Mrs Fortnam, and Sixth Form administrators Mrs Murgatroyd and Mrs Clayton.

We wish the class of 2024 all the best for the future. The staff have watched them grow into exceptional young people, and being part of their journey has been a privilege.

Naveed Hussain  
Director of Sixth Form



## Masterclass 2024 - 21 -22 May

We were delighted to run another successful Masterclass Event last week for our Year 12 students who are thinking about their futures. They were lucky enough to have 45 speakers on the first day, presenting on a range of subjects from Automotive Engineering, Law, Green Energy, Pharmacology, Sports Marketing, Journalism to Film Makers. Each speaker gave an overview of their own career path highlighting the qualifications, skills and experience that might best help students to achieve their ambitions. They also ran interactive workshops giving pupils a taste of what it is like to pursue that career.

On the second day we did something a little different this year. The students were able to take part in team building as well as communications and listening activities for half of the day, giving them time to stretch their legs and think on their feet. The other half of the day was spent taking part in interview practice workshops with some highly experienced HR professionals.

In addition, the year 12s were very fortunate to listen to the following two amazing keynote speakers on each day.

### Mike Birkhead - Producer / Director (Day 1)

Over the last forty years, Mike has produced more than 75 films on tigers, elephants, lions, leopards, hawks, and monkeys in India, Siberia, Sumatra and Nepal and right across Africa, Australia and South America. Ironically, he has never been the keenest of travellers but bouts of cholera, amoebic dysentery and tick bite fever and an attempted assassination attempt in Sri Lanka, still haven't put him off his journey.

After a lifetime of selling and telling wildlife stories on film, Mike told his unique account of the trials and tribulations of filming in wild places and of a business that is often described as the best job in the world but has many hidden pitfalls. Mike has worked with brave conservationists such as Valmik Thapar (Land of the Tiger. My Tiger Family) and Alan Rabinovitz (Tigers of Sumatra), brilliant academics such as Professor FRS Nick Davies (Cuckoo), award-winning authors such as Helen Macdonald (H is for Hawk) and Hollywood movie stars like Guy Pearce (The Ultimate Guide to the Tiger). And he's made many films with Sir David Attenborough on tigers, ground hornbills, peacocks, cuckoos, elephants, monkeys and dholes.

### Greg Searle MBE - Olympic Gold Medallist & Management Consultant (Day 2)

Greg went to four Olympic Games competing in the sport of rowing. He won an

He came out of retirement and won an Olympic bronze medal at London 2012 aged 40. Greg also competed as a professional sailor in the America's Cup.

Greg was a partner in a consultancy called Lane4 Management Group for 20 years. Lane4 took lessons from Sports Psychology and applied them into business. Greg became an independent consultant and has been self-employed for the last 5 years. He has worked with organisations ranging from the NHS to Hedge Funds and from Bio-Tech start-ups to the England Women's football team. Greg also works at SAID Business School on the MBA programme.

The students are still buzzing with excitement from our Masterclass event and the feedback from them has been extremely positive! Anyone interested in taking part in Masterclass 2025 please do get in touch with **Caroline Wingrove cwingrove@swbgs.com** we would be delighted to hear from you.



## Girls Into Computing - 9 May

On Thursday 9th May 2024, selected girls across Year 8 were invited to a workshop at Langley Grammar School, run by the National Centre for Computing Education. It is an organisation that helps and encourages girls to get involved in computing and other jobs that are mainly dominated by men. The workshop, directed at young girls, was aimed to expand the number of women in this field. The students were told of the importance of women in computing, inspiring many of them. The workshop provided a small insight into the world of computing in which students were able to programme the Micro:bit. After an introduction to the women leaders running the workshop, everyone got straight into linking their Micro:bit with the NeoPixel LED devices through the use of the website 'Micro:bit Makecode'. The girls were able to show various coloured, flashing and animated LED's using physical gestures such as 'tilt right', 'shake' or 'face down'. It was mesmerising. We all had an incredibly fun day in which we all learned a lot, were creative and most of all deeply inspired.

By Aarisha Band and Laura Querfurth, Year 8

## School Analyst Chemistry Competition

The schools Analyst Competition is an opportunity to expand on existing chemistry knowledge, beyond the curriculum. As provided by the University of Newcastle, we had a number of product samples, most from the supermarket shelf, with the goal to determine whether they have the correct ingredients in the correct proportions as displayed on the packaging. Over several timetabled sessions, we had access to the lab and the material required to complete the tasks.

Our first task was to determine the vitamin C content in different brands of vitamin tablets. Spot checks play an important role in ensuring manufactures aren't cutting corners and ensure the product matches promised composition! Through a series of titrations, we aimed to determine whether the vitamin C content of the tablets was within 5% of what the manufacturer specified.

Our second task was to determine the dye content of imported sweets. Using thin-layer chromatography, we extracted the dyes, separated them into their constituent parts and compared these alongside standard samples to check for any restricted dyes.

The third and final task was a volumetric analysis of baking soda in a 'ready-to-bake' cake mixture. We did this by adding a strong acid to the mixture, resulting in the formation of carbon dioxide. By measuring the volume of CO<sub>2</sub> produced, we were then able to calculate the concentration of baking soda.

Once completed our results were sent off as part of the regional competition and we are now awaiting the results!

Alex Ley, Year 12



## Marlow Energy Group Essay Competition

This term Marlow Energy Group challenged students aged 11-18 who attend a school in Marlow to write a 750 word essay entitled “What do you think are the most effective ways of reducing the impact of climate change?” Borlase students rose to this challenge and their essays covered the impacts of raising animals for food, the positive impact of vegetarianism or veganism, how air travel affects the environment, and lots of creative ways we can all make small changes for a large effect. We were delighted to hear that Borlase students had won 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in the competition, and on Friday 10 May representatives from Marlow Energy Group, along with the Marlow deputy mayor, came to school to announce the winners. We are very proud of all the entrants, but a huge well done to the following:

**1st prize - Cosmo Honeywill (Year 7)**

**2nd prize - Sarah Wheatley (Year 12)**

**3rd prize - Holly Peek (Year 7)**

## Year 9 & 10 Theatre trip, Minority Report

On the 8th of May, GCSE drama students in years 9 and 10 got the chance to watch a performance of ‘Minority Report’ in London. This was to assist their learning in drama.

The performance was really impressive and made use of a style of staging that is not seen very often. The staging and props were impressive and extremely realistic. This was very effective, and especially suited to the sci-fi setting of the play. This made the performance seem more like a movie with full sets than a performance on a stage. However, this was at the expense of immersion, since the limited use of imagination made it less immersive. This was limited, however, by the use of lots of projections and sound effects to increase the realism of the performance. I found it fascinating to see the way in which the staging and props were reused and repurposed as well as how they managed to make large scene changes seem fluid, using a multifunctional set piece which was lowered from the ceiling.

The acting was also very impressive. The characters were extremely believable and you could see the emotions they were feeling at all points in the play. This really complemented the realistic staging and made it an extremely enjoyable performance. The plot was relatively predictable, but this didn’t detract from its effectiveness and how much I enjoyed the performance.

Oliver Bridgen, Year 9



## Year 12 Geography trip - 19 April

On Friday 19 April, the Year 12 Geographers attended a day at Shuttleworth College in Bedfordshire. As guests of the Bedford College Group, we were treated to generous hospitality and experienced a field trip with a difference. The morning commenced with two presentations focusing on urban and rural regeneration which linked with the A level specification. It was especially interesting to hear about the regeneration of an old building in Corby’s town centre into an urban chic £3.5 million school for 16-18 year old students; the country’s first zero carbon school!

We then embarked on a tour of the college’s zoological centre and found ourselves walking through dense tropical rainforest with lizards, frogs and other creatures either crawling or flying around. The snakes and spiders were, however, thankfully contained in their enclosed residences. One of the highlights was an encounter with a Binturong, a vulnerable mammal that none of us had heard about! We were permitted to feed this strange creature which looked like a hybrid between a small bear and seal with a very long tail.

After lunch we climbed on a trailer and were pulled by tractor along an incredibly bumpy and muddy track to the college’s farm where we learned a great deal about sustainable farming practice and use of advanced technology to monitor the animals. The newborn calves were beautiful and it was encouraging to see an extremely high level of animal welfare. Shane the farmer was clearly devoted to his animals!

Huge thanks to Pat and Mandy from the Bedford College Group for organising such an informative and fun day.

Mrs J. Blane , Geography Teacher

## Year 9 Woman in Black Theatre trip - 18 April

Year 9 had a great trip to see ‘The Woman in Black’ at the Wycombe Swan Theatre on Thursday 18th April. This was to support their learning around the topic of gothic in English and proved to be a really exciting trip.

I personally found the play fascinating, with the fourth wall being used and broken repeatedly to great effect. It was an incredible performance by the actors, who really made the entire theatre seem like a part of their world, which made the performance so immersive and really added to the atmosphere. I particularly liked the use of lighting and the translucent curtain to add depth and additional scenery to the play, which was done exceptionally well. The play also took advantage of comedic moments to break the tense atmosphere and toning down the creep factor. I believe the multiple entrances could be used more effectively; perhaps by making use of the pathways between seats for dramatic entrances, but overall, I really enjoyed the performance and would love to go again.

Oliver Bridgen, Year 9



## MFL Update – French Year 12 Trip to Montpellier

On a sunny morning at the end of last week, Year 12 French students set off to the South of France to spend a long weekend exploring the towns of Montpellier, Nîmes and Avignon.

We arrived in a sun-drenched Montpellier and after a quick bus ride into the centre, settled into our hotel and ventured into the main square, la Place de la Comédie, to sample the local food and, of course, for students to practise their French. We all enjoyed a lovely meal and, tired, but having soaked up some of the local culture, went back to the hotel ready to prepare for a day in the beautiful, historic city of Nîmes.

We were fortunate to wake up to glorious sunshine and all enjoyed a typical French breakfast. Then, armed with our sun cream and sturdy walking shoes, caught a tram and then bus into Nîmes, famous for its rich Roman history and stunning monuments. After a stroll around the centre and a visit to Les Halles, a typical French market, we made our way to the Amphitheatre. Dating from the 1st Century, this is one of the best-preserved Roman amphitheatres in the world and despite the heat and the number of steps we had to climb, we were all thoroughly impressed.

Once we had recovered from the steps, we made our way to the Maison Carrée, one of the best-preserved Roman temples to survive in the territory of the Roman Empire. This was followed by more walking, this time to the tour de Magne, another Roman vestige and more steps to climb! It was definitely worth it for the panoramic view of Nîmes. After all of the walking and sight-seeing, the students were ready to eat and seized the opportunity to use their linguistic skills to order their evening meal.

Sunday was another sunny day. In the morning, the students proved to be excellent tour guides having prepared presentations in French on various sights. This was followed by a trip to Avignon, by train this time. Of course, no visit to Avignon is complete without seeing the Palais des Papes and this was our first stop. After some refreshments in the picturesque square and looking around the small market stalls, we walked to the famous Pont d'Avignon. More steps, but a fantastic view of the town and an excellent photo opportunity.

Those of you familiar with France will know that everything tends to shut on a Monday morning. This was therefore the ideal opportunity to visit the coast and enjoy the nature and wildlife of the area. Finally, we were all extremely lucky to be in Montpellier on the day that the Olympic flame passed through the city and to see it arrive in front of the Opera House just before having to return to the airport for our flight back home.

The trip was thoroughly enjoyable and the Year 12s were a credit to the school, immersing themselves in the culture of the area and also making the most of the opportunity to practise their French language skills.



## Year 12 French Exchange

Our visitors from Marlow's twin town, Marly-le-Roi arrived on Saturday 27th April and spent the weekend with their host families. During the week the French group went on a number of visits in order to get a taste of the English culture and language. On Monday they visited Windsor and Eton and very much enjoyed a tour of Windsor Castle and time exploring the town. The next day they travelled to London to visit the Globe Theatre, Borough Market and the Tate Modern.

On Wednesday, Borlase students and French students spent the day in London enjoying a visit to Kensington Palace and a boat cruise along the Thames. Thank you to Miss O'Riordan and Mrs Pryor for accompanying them. On Thursday, the French students returned to London to visit Covent Garden and then, as they are studying *Les Misérables* and other works of Victor Hugo in their French literature lessons, this was an excellent opportunity to combine their prior knowledge of the story with improving their language and comprehension skills.

Finally, on Friday students spent the day in Marlow, where they experienced school life in the morning, with a history lesson from Mr Mead, then they practiced their English pronunciation through the poem "dearest creature of creation" (difficult even if you're first language is English!). They finished off their week with a trip in to Marlow and a visit of the Marlow Museum. A huge thank you to Borlase students and their families for making our French guests feel so welcome.

"At the end of April my French exchange came over to Marlow. It was great to finally meet him and we had an amazing time together. We did so many things together (London, Thorpe Park, Swimming, Football etc). Having him over really improved my French. Fortunately, we had a lot in common to talk about. It was nice to make a new friend and also to meet some of the other French students. I can't wait to go to France in June!" Eddie Hubscher, Year 10

Mrs Colville  
Head of MFL



## Senior Concert - 25 April

The Senior Concert this year was full of so much talent and fun but some tears too. From the chapel choir performing 'O Love' to the James Bond theme by the Brass ensemble. All of the performers have shown a huge amount of dedication to the arts throughout this year and showcased all of their amazing talent. There were many incredible performances throughout the night but some highlights include; 'Pirates of the Caribbean' by Symphony Orchestra, the stunning flute choir performing 'Under the Sea', of course Gospel Choir and Madriguys' 'Lean on Me'. In addition of course the difficult yet stunning pieces performed by Cantorum, 'Lay a Garland' and 'Over the Rainbow' and finally the leavers medley which ended with the beautiful 'Road Home' and a few tears. Congratulations to all the performers and many many thanks go to the leaders of ensembles, the Music Department and the Tech team. I think I speak on behalf of all the year 13's involved on how much we are going to miss these concerts, and we really appreciate all the opportunities given to us over the years, we cannot wait to come back for the Alumni Carol Service!

Ruby Qureshi Year 13

## Borlasians Perform at Pub in the Park Festival

From Thursday 16th - Sunday 19th May, the annual Pub in the Park Festival took place in Marlow and we were delighted that Borlase bands and ensembles contributed every day to the musical programme for the event. Congratulations to all of the students involved, including the Borlase Jazz Orchestra, Y13 bands The Fundamentals & West Street, Y12 band Diverted Traffic, Y10 band Knight and Y9 band Offbeat. On the final day of the festival, Ruby Sharma, accompanied by some of her fellow year 13s, performed a fantastic set of songs on the main stage. Thank you all students for their commitment, to Mr Davie for leading the Jazz Orchestra and to Pub in the Park for this fantastic performance opportunity.





### Arts Dinner, 3 May

On 3rd May, the Arts department welcomed our annual 'Arts dinner', a much-anticipated event on the performing arts calendar. Not only is it an event full of fabulous formal attire, it is a celebration of all the achievements, enthusiasm and dedication put in from both the senior students and staff in all elements of the performing arts.

Although the weather proved to be a bit gloomy, we certainly were not disheartened and, as ever, we were able to take photos (using our newly added photo booth in the drama studio) and eat our food in the cloisters with smiles on our faces! Not before long we were beckoned into the glamorously decorated theatre, awaiting the infamous BOSCAR awards to begin. Intermittently we had performances from Gospel Choir, Madriguys, Key Stage 5 dance and a hilarious drama sketch, all of which were thoroughly enjoyed by our audience. We were sad to see our Year 13s give their final performance of the leavers medley, with a beautiful rendition of 'The road home', ending on a less emotional note with a brilliant performance from the Fundamentals!

It was also our opportunity to say an early goodbye and thank you to Mr Mark Hartley, our Technical Theatre teacher, who will sadly be leaving us in the summer. Mark has worked tirelessly for us for almost 20 years and Borlase will not be the same without him. Thank you to the Old Borlasians for sponsoring our awards, and to everyone who attended, we hope you had an amazing time! Thank you as well to our army of Junior Techies who made the night go very smoothly indeed!

Congratulations to all the BOSCAR recipients and nominees, we hope you view it as a recognition of your excellence and hard work! Thank you everyone for coming and, more importantly, thank you for all the organisation and hard work put in to make this such an enjoyable event for all

Hattie Parkinson, Year 12

### Winners & Nominees of the Boscars

We are delighted to announce the winners of the Borlase Oscars 'Boscars' for 2023/2024. Recipients of the awards have demonstrated commitment, achievement and excellence in that discipline. In recognition of the commitment and achievement of many of our students across the year, we also curate a list of 'nominees' for each award. We hope that these awards inspire and empower the students to excel in the arts and, in doing so, continue to develop the skills and knowledge that will help to shape their future. **To view the full list of winners and nominees click [here](#).**

# SPORTS

## Sports Update

### Sports Awards Celebration

We were delighted to welcome 150 guests to this year's Sports Awards celebration where we enjoyed an evening of achievements, participation and fantastic memories. The outgoing sports captains opened the event with their memories of Borlase sport during their 7 years at the school followed by a celebratory video of sporting highlights from the past 12 months. Along with the delicious food and great company, we all enjoyed hearing of the athletic career of Nicola Sanders who shared her stories of Olympic Games, World Championships, injury and doping scandals. It is always inspiring to hear first hand from an individual who has been on the world stage and experienced themselves what many people only dream of doing.

During the evening, captains caps, sponsored by the Old Borlasian Club, were presented to the outgoing first team captains.

- Natasha Rasmussen - School Sport Captain
- Sam Furley - School Sport and Rowing Captain
- Kat Finney - Rowing Captain
- Lauren Hilditch - Hockey Captain
- George Evans - Hockey Captain
- Mahlee Lelyveld - Netball Captain
- George Rackstraw - Football Captain
- James Sampson - Rugby Captain
- Ed Thomson - Rugby Captain

Junior and Senior half and full sport colours were announced and presented and we look forward to seeing the full colour recipients proudly wearing their sports colour ties during the term. Half colours are awarded to individuals who have displayed a consistently high level of performance and commitment and have demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship and character in keeping with the school's values. Full colours are awarded to performers who demonstrate a consistently outstanding level of performance and commitment and exceptional sportsmanship and character in line with the school's values. Honorary full colours may be awarded to pupils meeting these criteria in their sport outside of school. If students have previously been awarded half or full colours they will not receive it again in the same sport. For those not present at the event, the awards have been or will be presented in year group assemblies at school.



Junior Half Colours		Junior Full Colours
<b>Football</b> Joe Carter Oscar Spratley Dylan Taylan Tea Williams Libby Murtland Hannah Morgan Disha Rao  <b>Netball</b> Katie Boulby	<b>Hockey</b> James King Joe Carter Isla Duncan Amelie Grice Dylan Taylan Sam Nicholson George Piercy Tess Reid Florence Prescott Rachel Townley Ollie Pearce	<b>Football</b> Jake Scott Theo Seymour Nicole Need Ava Pilai Tea Williams  <b>Hockey</b> Theo Seymour Tom Cook Rosa Cook Eloise Lochhead
<b>Rugby</b> Jake Scott Rory Paton	<b>Tennis</b> Tessa Reid Libby Roberts Eloise Lochhead	<b>Tennis</b> Matteo Mirone
<b>Rowing</b> Gabriel Lorenzi Amelie Grice		



Senior Half Colours		Senior Full Colours
<p><b>Cross Country</b> Alexandra Marden Asmi Saha</p> <p><b>Football</b> Rio Oatut Balyen Walden Sam Puddephatt Josh Covus Dylan Sylvester Arnar Davenport Jamie Shepherd Jack Cowan Feliz Hampton Amelie Furphy-Yamazki Beth Evans Ellie Leamon Alexandra Marden Charlotte Hesketh Lizzie Ainscough Amy Martin</p>	<p><b>Hockey</b> Alex Greener Jack Lee Ben Proudfoot Oliver West Triti Panda Izzie Holden Ellie Lane Anna Needham Holly Lochhead Mega Fulton Jack Barry</p>	<p><b>Cross Country</b> Henry Johnston</p> <p><b>Football</b> Toby Pettit George Rackstraw Millie West Rebecca Hesketh</p> <p><b>Honorary Football</b> Natasha Rasmussen</p> <p><b>Netball</b> Polly Compton</p>
<p><b>Netball</b> Alexandra Marden</p>	<p><b>Rowing</b> Will Clayton Ishan Faulkner Will Wingrove Kristian Moreton</p>	<p><b>Rowing</b> Kat Finney Sam Furley Katie Wright</p>
	<p><b>Rugby</b> Freddie Terrell Spike Webb Rico Morgan Alexis Besnard Oscar Walker</p>	<p><b>Rugby</b> James Sampson Ed Thomson</p>
		<p><b>Hockey</b> Lauren Hilditch Helena Kennedy George Evans Joe Henwood Joe Hoggan</p>

Earlier in the term, students had been invited to nominate their peers for the sports personality of the year awards. A staff panel then discussed these nominations and selected the final winner. Congratulations to all those receiving this award.

- Year 10 - Tom Cook & Nicole Nedd
- Year 11 - Sam Vinall & Alexandra Marden
- Year 12 - Josh Covus & Holly Lochhead
- Year 13 - Lauren Hilditch & Joe Henwood

**The evening closed with the presentation of our four special awards:**

**The Robin Graham Award** has been donated and is in memory of Old Borlasian Robin who as a hugely passionate footballer and captain of the school 2XII unfortunately lost his life in an accident in the summer after he left the school. This is an award to recognise a student who goes beyond being a committed performer in sport. They are likely to be involved in playing, coaching, officiating or leading sport in and out of school, they will be an incredible role model, often volunteering their time and bringing support and enthusiasm to sport in school across different age groups and sport settings. The deserved winner of this award goes to Joe Hoggan. He should be proud of the many hours he has committed to the Hockey program this season as both a player and coach to the younger years. He has given up his days to support training, matches and tournaments for the junior members of the club and along with this has been an integral part of the U18 boys 1st team who have continued their positive culture and strong performances both indoors and out.

The Patterson Trophy for sporting endeavour. This is an award where individuals were nominated for their commitment, their overcoming adversity and their involvement in school and beyond. The nominees shared a key trait of being exceptionally hard working and real role models in their sports. During their time in the sixth form they have balanced elite training with their academics and school wide extra-curricular commitment. In the past month alone, this student has captained their U21 football team to national league and national youth cup victory along with organising a charity fun run for over 1000 students and staff! Congratulations, **Natasha Rasmussen**.



The Philip McIntyre Award for outstanding sporting achievement is awarded to an incredibly hard working individual who is committed to their sport and is a real role model for those around them. They are incredibly understated and despite being able to step out on an international stage, they return to school and carry on as if nothing has happened. Since her initial selection for the GB junior team at age 13 she has been training 20 hours a week and has competed internationally in Lithuania, Portugal, Bulgaria, Italy and Turkey. In 2020, she qualified for the world championships and has represented GB at 2 European championships in 2021 and in 2023 where she finished 13th in Europe. At the Plovdiv Cup, representing GB in 2022 she placed 5th out of 70 gymnasts. She is the current British champion in the trio category and despite currently focusing on her A Levels, is looking forward to continuing her gymnastic career next year at university and beyond. Huge congratulations to the international aerobic gymnast, **Daisy-May Stevens**.

The team of the year was nominated by sports staff with a run down of the team achievements that year. After careful consideration and consultation the winning team was the **U19 Netball team**. They should be hugely proud of the incredible effort and fantastically positive attitude they have displayed all year. During the season they have been crowned County Champions and competed at the Regional Flnals of the National School tournament. They have won the District league, being undefeated and for the first time have competed in the national knockout cup. In this event they won through a series of rounds, all against independent schools to reach the last 16 schools in the country. They were one of only two teams from state schools to reach this stage. We are already excited to see how this team does again next season.

As always, it is fantastic to have a room filled with people who we work with on a daily basis, students, parents and staff, all celebrating something we are hugely passionate about. We are all incredibly proud to carry the Boralse badge on our kit and being part of a wonderfully positive and successful team. We are already looking forward to the event again this time next year!

## Rowing

### Junior Inter-Regional Regatta - 20th April

With the winter hopefully long behind us Borlase Rowing got the regatta season underway competing at the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta held in Nottingham at the National Watersport Centre. Two Borlase crews had previously qualified to represent Thames Upriver against the other English regions plus Scotland via a trial in March. With a really high standard of racing the J16 Double of Finley Corby and Samuel Vinall



### GB U19 Trials Regatta - 21st April

Back at The National Water Sport Centre again the following day, this time it was the turn of Sam Furley and Kristian Moreton to take on 40 of the best single scullers from Great Britain to try and obtain an invitation to final crew formation for this summers international regattas. In what was a full day of racing with a time trial, semi final and final the boys showed that all of their hard work this winter has been paying off especially given the intensity of the racing. Kristian in his first attempt racing at this level showed how much he has developed this season to finish 34th overall. Sam again was involved in an incredible final race where four crews were all fighting it out right to the line. A really good step on in performance for Sam placed him 14th overall.

### Chiswick Regatta - 4th May

The first of the bank holiday weekend regattas saw Borlase heading to Chiswick instead of Marlow Spring Regatta this year due to the latters cancellation. In unfamiliar conditions on the tidal stretch of river this was a huge learning curve but one that the rowers rose to and it was great to see so many Borlase crews out enjoying racing. Special mention to Nick Constandinos and Chris Hackett winning J15 Doubles, Harley Hillier, Finley Corby, George Moody and Tomas Hodek winning J16 Quads and finally Bo Ridley and Lucy Browning racing up an age group to win J18 Doubles.

### Wallingford Regatta - 5th May

Wallingford regatta, held at Dorney Lake is largely for senior crews but Borlase had four boats representing the school over the course of the day. With some promising performances Kristian Moreton led his J18 singles race for much of the race but was just edged into third during the final moments but was incredibly proud to have pushed the other scullers so close. In a commanding performance Kat Finney and Katie Wright racing in the Chairman's Challenge Cup for Women's Junior Doubles took home the win and accompanying set of chalice to add to their trophy collection.

### Junior Sculling Regatta - 6th May

The final day of racing for the bank holiday brought all age groups back together to face crews from all over the country at Dorney Lake. Competing over 2000m, with the sunshine of Saturday and Sunday a distant memory the Borlase rowers certainly didn't shy away from attacking the racing. The J14 crews learnt a huge amount in their first large scale Dorney regatta, with the J15s again showing good development to make it through into the side by side racing. The J16 girls quad of Bo Ridley, Amy Clarke, Immy Palmer and Beatrice Hunt did brilliantly in their time trial and were able to back that up moving into the final with a superb row to take the silver medal.



## Borne @ Chiswick Bridge Regatta - 11th May

Back to Chiswick for a second week running this time just for the J14 and 15s. Armed with their knowledge and understanding from the previous regatta they showed their improved confidence with some assured performances throughout the day. The J15 boys with some enforced changes due to illness and injury raced so well they ended up with two crews racing each other in the final. Special mention to Josh Wilder and Christian Rubim-McKeating racing up a year with great assurance to take home their first ever regatta trophies alongside crew mates Fred Britton, Gabriel Lorenzi and Sohan Bola. The J15 girls also got in on the act again with Christian Rubim-McKeating on board coxing in a fashion that belied his years. The crew of Amelie Goodchild, Evie Woodbridge, Aleeza Yahya and Nikita D'Souza took control of their final early on and rowed away from their opposition to take home the first race win of this season.

## Cricket

Borlase Cricket has started brightly this season with excellent numbers at training and the weather not causing chaos yet! Last year's Junior Trophy winners the U13 have started the season strongly with a win in the opening round of the Cup progressing into the quarter final of the Junior Trophy, alongside competitive district League fixtures against Princes Risborough School and St Micheal's Catholic School. Notable performances have come from Max Cook and Armaan Jain with the bat and Tharak Ramani with the ball. Tom Whitaker has captained the side well.

Like the U13 side, the U15 side have also progressed to the quarter final of the Senior Trophy thanks to a strong batting performance from Theo Seymour. The district league got off to a difficult start with a defeat to Sir William Ramsay, despite a strong 32 from Oliver Drever and 3 wickets for Joseph Coombs. The sides season has got back on track with a win against St Michael's Catholic School.

We have also been delighted to see the development of a Girls only U13 team this season. They did extremely well in their first game of the season against Burnham Grammar School with ... and ... performing well.

We are looking forward to a busy second half of the term with many cup and league fixtures alongside the annual Old Borlasians game!



## Athletics

The athletics season has started with a bang with over 60 athletes across the year groups attending the weekly training sessions. In the early part of the season, many of the competition opportunities are for the older year groups with more experience, while the younger performers are still gaining confidence in the different events.

## District Athletics League

The Y9&10 competition is a great opportunity for athletes to be involved and try out any event they would like to. It is also a great way for GCSE PE students to be involved in competition ahead of their assessments. The first few weeks have seen the groups racing on the GMS track and taking convincing victories in the girls middle distance events - we have an incredibly strong and committed group who are regularly competing and taking all the top positions in these races. A particular well done to Libby M who was the district winner of both the 1500m and 800m across the different weeks. In the field events, it has been great to see students having a go at many different events. A huge well done to Jake S taking the win in the triple jump with a jump of 11.41m.

After half term, the league competition will move on to Year 8 and the Year 7 students and we look forward to seeing them all have a go at any events they would like.

## ESAA Track & Field Cup

This is a national competition that sees schools across the country creating teams aiming to score points for the times and distances of performance instead of the overall placings in an event. Team selection is extremely complex as there is a limit to how many students can be in a team along with specific requirements of the combination of events they can and must do. The squads travelled to Hillingdon stadium, which for some was their first experience of athletics at a full 400m track. The work ethic and team spirit from everyone involved on the day was wonderful to see along with everybody trying their best in every event. Catching glimpses of student celebrations at achieving PBs or completing an event for the first time and realising they enjoyed it is exactly what we hope to see in the opportunities athletics can bring. At the end of the day, team points were announced with both the Junior Girls (Y7&8) and Inter Girls (Y9&10) finishing in 4th place. The two boys teams unfortunately had some gaps in the team due to last minute withdrawals which did affect their overall points total and placings.

However, there were some incredible performances from the athletes involved on the day who should be very proud and hopefully are looking forward to further competitions. All individual and team results from the day can be found [here](#).

## Tennis

**Senior Girls** - The senior girls started their season off with a tough home draw to Wycombe Abbey. Showing great maturity at a young age, a couple of the u15 girls stepped up as others were out with injury and they did themselves and the school proud with their efforts. They came up short in the result but it was great preparation for their own season in the u15 Division one competition.

**Senior Boys** - The senior boys started their campaign with a bye in the first round. In round two, a tough draw away to Watford Grammar lay ahead and in an exciting tussle in tough conditions, the boys fought hard and secured the win in a deciding championship tiebreak. Fighting spirit and teamwork was the key to success, ensuring another tough match at home to Aylesbury Grammar in the coming days.

**U13/15s** - The underage categories have had a strong start to the season. We have seven teams competing across the various divisions and with continued success we can hope to secure some positions in the later stages of the competitions. A special mention to Mr Monk who has given up a lot of his time after work to help with high quality training sessions and leading matches that have taken place this half term.



## Hockey

Despite the hockey season coming to a close at the end of March, there has still been plenty of hockey activity since the last report was written towards the back end of the spring term. At the time of writing last term's report, the BU16 A team were still to play their National Tier 1 Plate semi final, whilst there has been plenty of action for our U18 teams, both on and off the pitch. We've also had the opportunity to say thank you to all of our hockey playing students with award ceremonies for every age group.

**BU16 Tier 1 National Plate Semi Final:** The BU16 A team travelled to Kent for their Tier 1 Plate semi final match against Sir Joseph Williamson's Grammar School in March. The team were in high spirits before the match, which was evident in the first twenty minutes of a high energy, high tempo display. Despite their strong start, the Borlase team found themselves 1-0 down at half time, having conceded when they were down to ten players towards the end of the first half. A strong showing from the BU16s in the second half put the hosts under pressure, but they held firm and extended their lead with five minutes left to play. A stirring comeback was on the cards with two minutes left as Ollie Drever made the score 2-1, but they couldn't find the equaliser and the team fell just short. However, they can be proud of the development this season, and they can look forward to picking up where they left off next season in either the BU16 or BU18 Tier 1 league.

**U18 Matches and Awards:** The U18 squads have been busy since Easter, with an awards lunch on Wednesday 17th April, a Year 12 vs Year 13 match on Friday 19th April, before the annual Staff vs Year 13 match on Wednesday 8th May. It has been great to remain in contact with the students regularly since the season has finished, especially in more relaxed and social settings. Goodbyes and thank yous were aplenty at the end of the season lunch at Cote Brasserie on 17th April. The Year 13s received a small gift from Borlase Hockey to thank them for their years of service, before awards were presented to the outstanding individuals in three categories - Most Improved, Player of the Season and Players' Player - and captains for the 2024/25 season were named.



There is plenty of excitement before next season as both squads will be competing in England Hockey's Tier 1 competitions. The Year 12 vs Year 13 and Staff vs Year 13 matches provided a fitting end for the Year 13s, as we wish them well in the future. Thank you for everything you've done for Borlase Hockey. Good luck in your exams, and keep playing hockey!

The award winners and next year's captains are as follows:

**GU18:**

- MI - Megan Fulton
- POY - Ellie Lane
- PP - Lauren Hilditch
- 2024/25 Captain - Martha Goodridge

**BU18:**

- MI - Matthew Lawson
- POY - Joe Henwood
- PP - Joe Hogan
- 2024/25 Captain - Sam Babes

**U12-U16 Awards:** The U12-U16 awards ceremony was held on Thursday 18th May in the Mountfield Theatre at school. It was great to have the opportunity to thank all the students for their commitment to Borlase Hockey this season. There have been some excellent team and individual performances since September, and they were all recognised at the ceremony. Well done to our individual award winners below.

<p><b>GU12:</b> MI - Ezgi Nalbantoglu POY - Molly Keegan <b>BU12:</b> MI - Finlay Davies POY - Ed Cary</p>	<p><b>GU13:</b> MI - Ellie Gill POY - Florence Prescott <b>BU13:</b> MI - Lucas Lorenzi POY - Alex Hutt &amp;</p>	<p><b>GU14:</b> MI - Cerys Ashton POY - Amelie Grice <b>BU14:</b> MI - Oscar Phillips POY - George Piercy</p>	<p><b>GU16:</b> MI - Tilly Dudley POY - Mima Day <b>BU16:</b> MI - Jo Watts POY - Marcus King</p>
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**Touring Team:**

On Saturday 11th May, Barker College, an Argentinian touring school, travelled to Marlow for two hockey fixtures. The Borlase Hockey GU15 and GU18 teams hosted the event at Marlow Sports Club, and it was a resounding success thanks to the hospitality of our students. The GU15s played Barker College's 2nd XI in the first match, winning 1-0, shortly followed by the 1st XI match, which also finished 1-0 to Borlase. The hockey players from both schools enjoyed post match food provided by the club and presentations were made to recognise the players of the day. A huge thank you must go to Barker College for being such great guests, and our students should take a lot of credit for the incredibly welcoming atmosphere they created. Well done to everyone involved - it was a fantastic day.

**Borlase Golf Day:** There is still time to support the Borlase Golf Day on Wednesday 5th June. The Borlase Golf Day provides much-needed funds for Borlase Hockey and also helps pay towards the usage fee at Marlow Sports Club.

How you can help.....

.....**Sponsorship** - can you or your company support by sponsoring in one of the following ways:

1. Sponsor an individual hole - it is just £50 to have your company's name associated with a hole on the course for the day - provide a banner or board which can be placed on the hole.
2. We would be thrilled if you would be prepared to take one of the premier sponsorship roles at this event. The key sponsorships still available are:
  - **Nearest to the Pin** - Sponsorship is £350.
  - **Longest Drive** - Sponsorship is £350.

.....**Matched Funding** - in previous years, we have managed to secure matched funding for the Borlase Golf Day through an ex-parent who worked for Microsoft. Unfortunately, the ex-parent has now left the company and we are without the additional source of fundraising that matched funding provides. We would very much like to secure matched funding again, if possible, so we'd really appreciate it if you could explore this option at work.



.....**Prizes** - we would also very much appreciate any golf equipment that you can get your hands on at work. I know some companies / businesses produce branded equipment such as golf balls, tees, umbrellas, pitch mark repairers, gloves etc., and we'd appreciate any items that might be kicking around! Finally, we generally award bottles of alcohol as part of the main prize - please let me know if this is something you can help with.

## SGO

This half term saw the change to summer sports (not necessarily weather!). School Games held 3 Cricket festivals held at Marlow Park CC and Marlow CC. Two of the three events were supported by year 10 GCSE students at Borlase. They were all given an activity that the primary pupils took part in groups. The first of the two festivals was year 1&2 Cricket, this was a challenge to match the exuberance of the young pupils but all Borlase students grew into it and brought enthusiasm, support and key coaching tips. The 2nd of the two festivals supported by Borlase was the year 3&4 festival at Marlow Park CC. Despite the risk of dogs running away with the equipment, the event was a glorious success with all Borlase students growing into their role, their mood (and mine) somewhat helped by the sun making an appearance. The students made their activity inclusive, adapting the activity where needed so that all could access the games and practices.

On the day of writing, 10 year 7's are heading out to a BMX & Skateboarding festival. This is an opportunity for many to try something new, a great metaphor for a growth mindset where mistakes are inevitable but in order to succeed you must embrace the mistakes, learn from them and try again. They will be shown a trick display by some expert riders/skaters before being coached through both BMX and Skateboarding. I await eagerly to hear how the event went but going by Mr Chappell's feedback from last year I'm sure it will be a great success.



# STAFF FEATURE

## **A conversation with Miss Jenn Pike, Head of Physics** *By Alex Ley and Lyla Griffin, Year 12*

### **What has your path been to becoming Head of Physics at SWBGS?**

After my university degree, I went straight into a PGCE (Post-Graduate Certificate in Education) at Brunel in Physics and Maths. From there, I had placements in Highcrest Academy and Chalfont Community College. Shortly after, I was given a job at Highcrest, where I stayed for two years before taking up the role of Assistant Head of Science at Misbourne school. Two years later, I moved to Borlase, shadowed Dr Couch for a year, then became Head of Physics.

### **How do you work with your department?**

They are fantastic! We have a young team here who are all incredibly enthusiastic and whom relate to the students extremely well.

### **What was your first impression of Borlase?**

I've always loved Marlow and I like all the traditions here at Borlase. Students are well behaved, enthusiastic and engage beyond the curriculum. They are well rounded and talk to you about so many things, not just their subjects.

### **What would you say to a student who is considering Physics A level?**

Do it! If you enjoyed GCSE Physics, A-Level Physics isn't a massive step-up. You have to be strong at Maths and ideally do Maths at A level. It's an interesting course, with fun lessons, and we learn so much and try to go beyond the curriculum. Next half-term, in June, we will be going to the Diamond Light Source where we get to walk around a small particle accelerator. There are more trips and opportunities on the way!

### **What is your favourite topic taught in Physics?**

My favourite topic to teach in both GCSE and A-level is Radioactivity and Nuclear Physics. It's something brand new that students rarely know much about besides Chernobyl or Nuclear Fission. Especially in A-level when we go into quarks, and students are blown away, wondering why they have never heard of this brand new part of the world. I also love all the Space topics, because I did Astrophysics at university so it will always hold a soft spot in my heart.

### **What would be your ideal planet?**

I would want somewhere quite warm, as I like a nice holiday. Mercury might be a bit too hot. Although it's the boring answer, I think Mars would be perfect. I would only go, however, if I could bring my family, maybe a few friends, and my four cats - I like being around people and animals!

### **What is a memorable moment you've had so far?**

The Space to Learn workshop was amazing. We had an incredibly knowledgeable expert come in to give talks. He also brought in pieces of moon rock and even let an A-level student try on a space suit that had left the atmosphere!

### **What are you excited for over the next year?**

The Diamond Light Source visit and then the Iceland trip. That will be my first Physics residential trip, which will be really good fun. Hopefully, we will get to see the auroras- even though quite a few of the students were able to see them locally the other weekend! Wanting to see the aurora is something I actually put in my personal statement and spoke about in my interview for Nottingham University. I still haven't seen it so fingers crossed we get lucky in Iceland.

### **What are your future aspirations for the Physics department?**

My future aspirations are to run more trips, not just for A-level but for lower down the school so more students understand what Physics is about aside from just forces and motion. I want to give students a wider idea of what Physics could be to them- not just engineering: there are so many career options and there is a choice for everyone. I am hoping that as a department, we can keep doing what we do and all get onto the 20-year board!



# ENRICHMENT

## Silver D of E, 19-21 April

On a sunny but cold weekend in April, the Silver Duke of Edinburgh students undertook their practice walk and two nights camping. Teams were in good spirits on the first evening, cooking some actually quite edible looking fajitas, with chicken and fresh vegetables!

The next day was spent walking through the hills around Ashridge. Tired teams returned for their second nights camping and thank you to Mrs Blatt for organising extra sleeping bags and duvets to combat the cold, for the second night. A successful practice now means teams are well prepared for their qualifying expedition in the Surrey Hills over half term.

## School Chess

Chess has continued to be a popular activity this term with the lunchtime club in H4U well attended each day. Please feel free to come along if you haven't already.

The House chess competition reached its finale this term with the culmination of the individual stage of the competition. There were 17 players who qualified for this stage with 7 Vikings, 5 Normans, 4 Saxons and 1 Roman involved. The last 16 saw all of the Saxons eliminated and due to the points carried over from the online stage this meant it would be a straight fight between Vikings and Normans for first place. The last Roman, Shreyan Panda, was eliminated in the quarter finals and this meant the semi finalists were John Palmer (N) vs Lucas Wilson (V) and Charlie Palmer (N) vs Jacob Cooke (V).

After a couple of close fought games, particularly between Charlie and Jacob, the Palmer brothers won both matches meaning Normans finished as House chess champions this year. The final positions were: 1st Normans, 2nd Vikings, 3rd Saxons, 4th Romans, 5th Britons, 6th Danes.

We took a group of 14 year 7,9 and 11 students over to Great Marlow for a friendly match on Thursday 18th April, This involved 2 games for each player against 2 different opponents. For many of the players this was their first over the board chess competition and it proved a great success with an excellent atmosphere between all the players and some excellent games of chess played (including many ad hoc friendlies between the 2 official games). This is following on from a friendly match that we had last term for 6th Formers and it is something we wish to continue as both sets of players clearly enjoy the experience. We will hopefully have another follow on match next half term. Overall we did emerge winners but there were a lot of close games that could have gone either way the final scores were SWBGS19.5 - 9.5 GMS.

We have continued to participate in the online schools league on a fortnightly basis on Mondays after school and the main team has been promoted to division one a couple of times where we have just about survived some weeks before being relegated again. The most recent event saw us promoted back up to division one for the next half term. We have also started entering a second team "Borlase girls" lead by Holly Edwards in year 12 and they have participated successfully 3 times so far beating several other schools in the overall Division 2 rankings. If you are interested in becoming part of the girls chess team then please speak to Holly or come along to H2U on Tuesday lunchtimes.

Mark Campbell  
Maths teacher





## The Friends of Borlase – funding news to share!

This half-term has absolutely flown by. ... Our Comedy Night fundraiser on 19 April was followed closely by the triumphant Senior Concert on 25 April, but that was it for a brief burst of Friends Bar events!

The BEST news we have to share is the results of funding proposals shared at our FoB meeting on 25 March:

- Eco-Society & Garden Society – The FoB funded the combined efforts of two student-led societies whose remit is to reclaim unloved sections of the school grounds and to pursue the Eco-Schools Green Flag designation for Borlase.
  - Greenpower Racing Team – The FoB funded the launch of a 13-person, STEM-focused student team dedicated to designing, building, and racing an electric go-kart as part of the Greenpower Education Trust.
  - Physics Department Wind Tunnel – The FoB funded the purchase of materials for an open circuit wind tunnel designed and built by a Y13 student as a Gold Crest project. This resource will remain in the Borlase Physics department for student use and aerodynamics experimentation.
  - R/C Model Aeroplane Club – The FoB funded the launch of a student club dedicated to designing, making, and flying radio-controlled model aircraft, sparking students’ interest in engineering and aerospace and perhaps allowing participants to move on to flying larger models – possibly even full-size aircraft, as a hobby or a career.
  - Sport and Recreation – The FoB purchased five new footballs for each year group – as well as a storage solution – to encourage active play during break times.
- These are kinds of the groups and initiatives that the Friends of Borlase work to support – your Comedy Night tickets and Friends Bar purchases in action!

### Borlase400 Dinner and Ball

Please join us: we’re still assembling FoB volunteer teams for the Borlase400 Dinner and Ball on 29 June – come help with Décor, Bar, or Coat Check that night, or with Clear-Up the next morning! Expertise is most welcome, but no experience is required – please drop a line to [friends@swbgs.com](mailto:friends@swbgs.com) to volunteer or for any other reason.

This author is returning to Canada in early July, so any parents interested in joining the FoB in the role of Secretary, or to assist with Communications and Friends Bar logistics, please reach out to the email address above!

The proceeds from all FoB fundraising goes to enrich the lives and support the learning of all our Borlase students. Follow us on Instagram [@friends\\_of\\_borlase\\_](#) and on Twitter/X [@FriendsSWBGS](#)

Happy half-term!  
By Adrienne Blair – Friends of Borlase Secretary

