



Pre-Term Letter from the Headteacher: 28 August, 2026

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you well as we approach the end of the summer break.

Whether you have been enjoying the local area and the extraordinary weather we have experienced or you have ventured further afield, I hope that you are feeling rested, refreshed and ready for the return to school and the academic year ahead. We celebrated some memorable occasions last year including the incredible performances of the Senior Musical, *West Side Story*, Year 7's bushcraft residential to Penshurst Place, great sporting successes, and visits to various destinations across the county, country, continent and globe, culminating in a record-breaking year for both Year 13 and Year 11 and with their A Level and GCSE exam results.

Through the summer there has been further sporting success by current and departing Borlasians. Sports Captain, Joely Chamberlain representing Switzerland, was runner up at the World Women's Junior Rugby 7s in Georgia. Representing Great Britain in rowing, Amy Clarke was 5th in the Sunday single sculls' final at the Coupe de la Jeunesse, while Fin Corby, Gabriel Lorenzi, and Lauren Kennedy were in the 4x-s which came 4th and 5th at the World Rowing U19 Championships in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Sam Vinall and Charlie Davies represented England in the Home Nations Regatta, while Fred Britton represented Wales, remarkably winning all three of the events in which he was competing! Well done to all of the athletes!

In school we have welcomed our incoming Year 7s for their summer camps which have been thoroughly enjoyed by all the attendees. My thanks go to all of the staff and our student volunteers from Years 11, 12 and 13 who have led and supported the activities over the last three days.

Important Dates

Tues/Wed 1 & 2 Sept	Staff INSET (School closed to students)
Thursday 3 Sept	Year 7 and Year 12 students return to school, registering at 08:40: no PE kit required.
Friday 4 Sept	ALL students return to school, lessons begin Period 2
Monday 7 Sept	Year 7 Performing Arts Day - PE kit all day
Wednesday 9 Sept	18:00 Year 12 Parents Information Evening in the Theatre*
Thursday 10 Sept	18:00 Year 8 Parents Information Evening in the Theatre* 19:00 Year 9 Parents Information Evening in the Theatre*
Sunday 13 Sept	OB Day: a family-friendly event for Old Borlasians, current students and families, 1pm to 5pm
Wednesday 16 Sept	18:00 Year 7 Parents Information Evening in the Theatre* followed by a Cheese & Wine event in the Centenary Hall, hosted by the Friends of Borlase.
Thursday 17 Sept	18:00 Year 10 Parents Information Evening in the Theatre* 19:00 Year 11 Parents Information Evening in the Theatre*
Tuesday 22 Sept	18:00 Year 13 Parents Information Evening in the Theatre*
Wednesday 23 Sept	Year 7 Open Evening for prospective students - volunteer guides will be requested
Friday 16 Oct	Save the Date! From 19:30, the Laughing Chili Comedy Club are at the Borlase Theatre

* Items covered at these evenings will include year group specific information about the curriculum and approaches to learning, pastoral care, homework, attendance, and co-curricular activities in the year ahead.

Term Dates, 2026/27

Term	From	To
Autumn 1	3 September Years 7 & 12 Only (Inset Days: 1 & 2 September) 4 September 2026	16 October 2026
Half-Term	17 October 2026 (Inset Day: 19 October)	1 November 2026
Autumn 2	2 November 2026	18 December (Ends at 13.40)
Christmas Holiday	19 December 2026	3 January 2027
Spring 1	5 January 2027 (Inset Day: 4 January)	12 February 2027
Half-Term Holiday	13 February 2027	21 February 2027
Spring 2	22 February 2027	25 March 2027
Easter Holiday	26 March 2027	11 April 2027
Summer 1	12 April 2027 (Bank Holiday: 3 May)	28 May 2027
Half-Term Holiday	29 May 2027	06 June 2027
Summer 2	7 June 2027 (Inset Day: 28 June; Transition Days: 6 & 7 July)	16 July 2027 (Ends 13.40)

Please would parents and carers take care to ensure that holidays are not booked during term time.

First Week Timings & Reminders

Tuesday 1st September: Staff INSET Day, no students in school

Wednesday 2nd September: Staff INSET Day, no students in school

Thursday 3rd September: Year 7 and Year 12 in school to register at 08:40, followed by extended tutor time, assemblies, orientation and network login.

Friday 4th September: All students in school for registration at 08:40, the school day ends at 15:30. There will be extended tutor time and assemblies for Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13.

Monday 7th September: All students in school for registration at 08:40, the school day ends at 15:30. Year 7 should wear PE kit for their Performing Arts day.

Uniform: there will likely have been a lot of trying on shirts, skirts, trousers, PE kit and shoes over the last days and weeks. School uniform guidance for Years 7 to 11, and the Sixth Form, can be found [here](#). NB:

- white socks are not permitted, except when worn as PE kit,
- school shoes in Years 7 to 11 must have black leather (or leather-look) uppers and plain black soles i.e. without contrasting logos, writing or visible air bubbles,
- All students including members of the Sixth Form must wear a jacket/blazer.

Mobile Phones: Parents are reminded that there is no school requirement for any student to have a smartphone. We will continue to follow our current policy whereby any phone seen or heard from the time of students' arrival to their departure from the school site will be confiscated and a behaviour point applied. Further updates on mobile phones will be given at the Parent Information evenings.

Exam Results and Destinations

Congratulations to all of the Year 13s and 11s who achieved the school's best ever results with their A Level and GCSE exam grades this summer. Huge thanks go to every member of staff who supported them academically, pastorally or behind the scenes by working to make the school what it is.

- At A Level, 20% of all grades were A*, 55% were A*/A, and 83% were A*/B with over 90% of students gained places at their preferred destination. Some students exceeded their expectations and have deferred entry until next year. Some students are entering the world of work, others are going to universities in the UK and overseas while others are taking up degree apprenticeships.

- At GCSE, a staggering 28% of all grades were 9s, 54% were 9/8, and 78% were 9-7 with one student achieving Grade 9s in each of their 10 subjects.

While we celebrate every student's achievement, academic grades alone do not define any person; we wish each and every one continued success and happiness in the next stage of their lives, at Borlase or beyond.

Site Works

The summer break provides an opportunity for important work to take place in school.

West Street: the council have relaid the tarmac on West Street, filling in the potholes which were becoming a significant obstacle. Road markings are now complete and should remind parents that, when dropping students off, to please use the Côte car park or side streets, not stopping on the double yellow lines obstructing traffic, nor in the entrance to the Sports Hall which is used as a staff car park.

Roofing Project: There has been good progress on the re-roofing of the oldest section of the school buildings, above and around the Archway on West Street. Completion is expected during the October half term until which point, student entry and exit to the school will remain via the Chapel gate with visitors reporting to Reception.

Redecorating: The upstairs in the Theatre block has been repainted, including the Music classrooms, Recital Room corridor, and corridors to the upstairs changing rooms.

Carpets: new carpets have been fitted in the Geography classrooms and in the Theatre corridor

Staffing Changes

Curriculum: Mrs Harris returns from parental leave and resumes her position as Head of English and Mrs Privey resumes her role as 2nd in English - our thanks go to Miss Holmes, Mrs Privey and Mrs Oliver who took charge of KS5, KS4 and KS3 English respectively. Mr Chappell is confirmed as permanent Director of Sport.

We look forward to welcoming the following staff who join the school in September:

Mrs Grant: Assistant Director of Sport & PE

Mrs Norris: Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Lu: Trainee Teacher of Maths

Miss Pilling: EHCP Learning Support Assistant

Mr Nadeem: Teacher of Chemistry

Mr Sammes: Trainee Teacher of PE

With best wishes for the year ahead,



Ed Goodall

Headteacher