



## Headteacher's Letter: 04 September 2026

### Upcoming Events

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon 7 Sept   | Year 7 Performing Arts Day<br>Year 13 Assessments all week<br>Year 9 Rowing Meeting 7.30pm - Centenary Hall                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Tues 8 Sept  | 11+ Exams<br>Performing Arts Fayre (Lunchtime)<br>Year 10 Rowing Meeting 7.30pm - Stuart Lever Room                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Wed 9 Sept   | School Photographs<br>HELM Societies Fayre (lunchtime)<br>Year 12 Parents & Carers Information Evening, 6pm in the Theatre                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Thu 10 Sept  | 11+ Exams<br>STEM Societies Fayre (lunchtime)<br>Year 8 Parents & Carers Information Evening, 6pm in the Theatre<br>Year 9 Parents & Carers Information Evening, 7pm in the Theatre<br>Years 11-13 Rowing Meeting 7.30pm - Stuart Lever Room<br>Year 9 Theatre Trip - To Kill a Mockingbird |
| Sun 13 Sept  | OB Day, 1pm-5pm: OBs and current students and families welcome                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Mon 14 Sept  | Year 13 Assessments all week                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Tues 15 Sept | Duke of Edinburgh Gold and Silver - Online Information Evening                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Wed 16 Sept  | Year 11 Geography Field Trip to West Wittering, Group 1<br>Year 7 Parents and Carers Information Evening                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Thur 17 Sept | Year 10 and 11 Parents and Carers Information Evening                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Fri 18 Sept  | Year 7 to 11 Flu Vaccinations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Mon 21 Sept  | Year 11 Geography Field Trip to West Wittering, Group 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Thur 24 Sept | Year 12-13 Drama Theatre Trip to Electra/Persona                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

### Co-curricular/Extra-curricular Opportunities this Year

As you will be aware, Borlase offers an extensive co-curricular programme including Sports, Performing Arts and Academic Societies. We do hope your child will take up these opportunities over the coming year. All students are invited to come along to the following 'fayres' next week, during which they can find out what clubs and activities are on offer, and sign up if they wish to:

- Performing Arts Fayre: Tuesday 8 September, lunchtime in the theatre
- HELM Societies Fayre: Wednesday 9 September, lunchtime in the theatre
- STEM Societies Fayre: Thursday 10 September, lunchtime in the theatre
- For Sports, Hockey and Rowing information will have been sent home for the relevant year groups; for all other sports students are invited to come along to the first training sessions starting next week

The timetables for Sports, Performing Arts, and Academic Societies can be found in the 'Co-Curricular' section of the [Parent Portal](#) or the Co-Curricular section of the Student Portal. Students have also had this information shared with them via their tutors.

Letters re: the Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award for Y9, Y10 & Y12 can be found below.



## The Friends of Borlase: Upcoming Events

Wed 16 September: Cheese & Wine Event for Year 7 Parents/Carers after the Information Evening  
Fri 16 October: The **Laughing Chili Comedy Club** return to the Borlase Theatre from 19.30



### *The Borlasian* – Order your copy here

The 2025/2026 edition of *The Borlasian* is now in print, celebrating what was a remarkable year at Borlase with trips and visits galore, as well as write-ups of the School Musical, *West Side Story*, achievements in STEM, Humanities, the Arts and Languages, as well as comprehensive reports on sporting successes on the hockey and rugby pitches, netball courts, and on the river. *The Borlasian* has been produced every year since 1885 and featured as a key piece of evidence in Robert Thorogood's *Marlow Murders* book. With artwork by Lucie in Year 13, there are limited copies available so order yours [here](#).

## Contacting the School

For new Parents/Carers and a reminder for those who have been involved with the school for longer, If you need to contact the school, please use the following email addresses:

[year7enquiries@swbgs.com](mailto:year7enquiries@swbgs.com) for Year 7 questions  
[year8enquiries@swbgs.com](mailto:year8enquiries@swbgs.com) for Year 8 questions  
[year9enquiries@swbgs.com](mailto:year9enquiries@swbgs.com) for Year 9 questions  
[year10enquiries@swbgs.com](mailto:year10enquiries@swbgs.com) for Year 10 questions  
[year11enquiries@swbgs.com](mailto:year11enquiries@swbgs.com) for Year 11 questions  
[ks5@swbgs.com](mailto:ks5@swbgs.com) for Sixth Form questions

[sendco@swbgs.com](mailto:sendco@swbgs.com) for questions relating to SEND  
[safeguarding@swbgs.com](mailto:safeguarding@swbgs.com) for any question or concern  
[absence@swbgs.com](mailto:absence@swbgs.com) to communicate regarding future or current absence for years 7-11  
[sixthformabsence@swbgs.com](mailto:sixthformabsence@swbgs.com) as above for sixth form  
[parents@swbgs.com](mailto:parents@swbgs.com) for any other query

## Information and Reminders

### Whole School

- **Parent Information Evenings:** over the coming weeks, parents and carers of students in all years are invited into school to hear important information about the 12 months ahead. Please submit any questions you may have in advance via [this Form](#).
- **Year 7 to 11 will be offered free Flu Vaccinations on 18 September:** Click this [link](#) and enter code **EE136781** in order to complete the form for your child. Please complete the form whether you are approving or declining this invitation. Please note that students in the 6th form with eligible health conditions will also qualify to be vaccinated. The vaccination will be administered by nasal spray unless you request an intramuscular injection
- **SWBGS Question Time:** Save the date: 10 November 2026: [Details](#)
- **School Photographs on Wednesday 9 September:** All students should attend school in their school uniform, even if they have a Games or Dance, and bring their PE kit with them if required.

### Year 7

- **Email** - please use [parents@swbgs.com](mailto:parents@swbgs.com) for future general enquiries for the attention of whichever member of staff you require.
- Monday 7 September is **Performing Arts Day** - year 7s will come into school in their PE kit all day. Normal lessons equipment required for p1. P2-5 will include dance, drama and music activities. The schedule for the day is [here](#).
- Remember that on Tuesdays (games day) and the day your child has dance on their timetable they will **come to school in their PE kit on that day**. To ensure that students look smart on their way to school, and in classroom lessons on these days, students must wear their midlayer (or sweatshirt) and tracksuit bottoms over their PE, Dance or Games uniform.
- **Year 7 Strength and Conditioning Sessions – Autumn Term 2026:** [letter](#)

- **Year 7 Indoor Hockey - Autumn Term 2026:** [letter](#)
- All **homework** will be set on google classrooms which should be usable by Friday - however students should wait until their first PSHE lesson to see how to use Google Classrooms. Staff won't be setting any significant homework for the first week to help year 7s settle in.
- **Laptops (BYOD)** should be brought in next week on the days below depending which teaching class they are in to get them safely set up in school:
  - 7E Completed Fri 4 Sept
  - 7C Tuesday 8 September
  - 7D Wednesday 9 September
  - 7A Wednesday 10 September
  - 7B Friday 11 September
- **Clubs** won't start straight away and will be visible to view on the website soon.

## Year 8

- **Year 8 Strength and Conditioning Sessions – Autumn Term 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 8 Indoor Hockey - Autumn Term 2026:** [letter](#)

## Year 9

- **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award:** [letter](#)
- **Year 9 Indoor Hockey - Autumn Term 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Y9 Set Texts:** [letter](#)

## Year 10

- **Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award:** [letter](#)
- **Year 10 Indoor Hockey - Autumn Term 2026:** [letter](#)
- **MFL Grammar, Vocabulary & Translation Workbooks & Revision Books:** [letter](#)
- **English Language Grammar and Spelling Workbooks:** [letter](#)

## Year 11

- **Y11 Drama trip to Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time, 7 October 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 11 Indoor Hockey - Autumn Term 2026:** [letter](#)
- **English Language Grammar and Spelling Workbooks:** [letter](#)

## Sixth Form

- **Year 12-13 Drama trip to Electra/Persona, 24 September 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 12-13 Indoor Hockey - Autumn Term 2026:** [letter](#)

### Year 12

- **Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award:** [letter](#)
- **Y12 Parents' Information Evening, Wednesday 9 September 2026, 6pm :** In Theatre, Parents only
- **Period 5 Games Options -** [letter to parents](#). Choices to be submitted by 9am on 9 September 2026

### Year 13

- **Y13 Assessments : 7 - 18 September 2026**
- **Y13 Parents' Information Evening, Tuesday 22 September 2026, 6pm :** In Theatre, Parents only
- **UCAS Predicted Grades Issued :** Friday 25 September 2026
- **UCAS Early Entry (applicants to Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine)**  
**Deadline for Pay and Send :** Monday 28 September 2026
- **UCAS Early Applications Deadline :** Thursday 15 October 2026
- **UCAS Pay and Send Deadline for non-Early Entry Students :** Monday 2 November 2026

## This Week at Borlase...



It has been lovely to welcome students back into school after the summer break! I hope that you are feeling rested, recuperated, and ready to go. There is always a fantastic buzz as friends come back together and new students explore their new school, meeting staff and each other. Staff were in school on Tuesday and Wednesday for INSET training and to prepare for the students' arrival and, again, the mood was one of excitement for the year ahead.

All year groups have had assemblies with their respective Heads of Year, Year 7s have been in the Chapel singing the school song accompanied by Mr Robson who, at the INSET, received a token of our appreciation at having completed 30 years' of service teaching at Borlase. If their singing in Chapel is anything to go, the future of music at the school is very secure indeed! There has also been the inevitable clamor by the large map of the school as students of all ages (and even some staff) develop their familiarity with the site.

By Period 2 today, we were very much into the swing of the new year, as you can see by the photograph on the left of Miss Rayner's Year 12 Drama group. When speaking to students in Years 11, 12 and 13, bird life has provided a very useful metaphor when considering the challenges of the year ahead, and I'm confident that they are equally applicable to students in other year groups too (and possibly to the parents too!):

- Don't be an ostrich. Don't hide your head in the sand and hoping that a difficult situation will disappear of its own accord - ask for help.
- Don't be deceived by the swans. It's easy to feel impostor syndrome as others seem to be gliding effortlessly without a trouble - we all feel like this at some point so again, reach out. We'll likely have seen it before.
- Be a goose! Flying in a V-formation, each bird takes a turn at the front, and if one falls behind, others fall back and help it back to the group.

We also took a moment in this morning's online assembly to celebrate the achievements of last year's Year 11 and 13 students in their GCSE and A Level exams, and the sporting prowess of Joely, Finley, Gabriel, Lauren, Amy, and Fred over the summer before finishing with a nod to the late Dolly Parton. Dolly might not have an explicit link to Borlase but she certainly upheld the principles of *te digna sequere*, and we could all do worse than to follow her advice: "You want to do well and keep up with the likes of others, but I just figure I'll just always be me and do me, and that seems to work."



Here's to a happy, healthy, and successful 2026/27 academic year,

**Ed Goodall**  
Headteacher