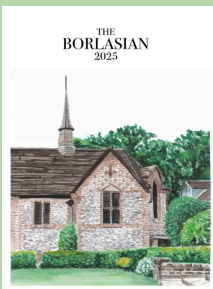




Headteacher's Letter: 19 September 2025

Upcoming Events

Tues 23 September	MotionHouse Dance Workshop with Evolve and Boys Dance
Wed 24 September	Year 7 Open Evening: please note, the school will close at 1.40pm for all students to allow staff to set up for the evening which starts at 4pm.
Fri 25 September	Maths Olympiad for Girls
Mon 29 September	MFL Bake Off - details below UCAS Early Entry Deadline
Thurs 2 October	Mop Up School Photos for all Students Who Missed Round 1
Mon 6 October	Whole School Cross Country
Tue 7 October	Year 13 Parents' Information Evening: 6pm in the Theatre



The Borlasian 2025

The 2025 edition of *The Borlasian*, the school magazine which has been published every year since 1885 is available for **preorder** via ParentPay or via our Box Office [here](#) for £7 Delivery dates will be notified once ordering closes

Previous copies of *The Borlasian* are available on our digital archive [here](#). A copy featured as a key clue in the first of Robert Thorogood's *Marlow Murders* series!



Comedy Night at Borlase! Friday 10 October

The Laughing Chili Comedy Club returns to The Mountfield Theatre at Borlase, courtesy of the Friends of Borlase. Doors open at 7.30pm with drinks and snacks on sale and laughs from 8.30-11pm. Over 18s only. Tickets cost £20 and are available [here](#).



Parent Fora and Parent Reps

As mentioned in our Parent Information Evenings, if you would like to join one of our parent forums or nominate yourself to be a year representative then please complete [this short Google Form](#).



The MFL 'Bake Off' is back!

European Day of Languages Monday 29th September: Please complete this [form](#) to enter the annual MFL Bake Off (information poster [here](#)). Please bring your bakes to the Stuart Lever Room (C5) along with the allergen form from 8:15am - 08:30am Monday 29 September.

Judging will take place at break and the charity cake sale will be at lunchtime. Please bring cash (coins) with you for the bake sale! Good luck!

Information and Reminders

Whole School

- **Communications from School:** This weekly Headteacher Update is the main source of information and communication from school to parents.
To ensure you receive these emails, please add sc8254505a@schoolcomms.com to the safe sender list of your email service provider. In addition, please make sure you notify the school if you change your email address so that we can update our records. This can be done using the parents@swbgs.com email address, marked for the attention of the SIMS Administrator.
- **Parent Pay Fraudulent Communication** regarding a [Parent Pay App](#) (click to view what you will see on your phone).
- **Sex Education** (as part of PSHE/RSE): Parent right to withdraw 2025/26 academic year - [letter](#)
- **School Photographs:** If your child missed the photography session at the start of the term, there will be a second session on 2 October.
- **Lost Property:** there is an influx of coats, blazers, mid layers & sweatshirts which have been found over the summer holidays. Please send your child on Wednesday lunchtime as we will be disposing of these items by the end of September due to space restrictions.
- **Second Hand Uniform shop:** this is open every Wednesday lunchtime. Please send your child should you need any uniform. Cash or card payments are accepted.
- **Mind Morning:** Bucks Ed. Psych. Team have asked us to share details of the MIND Morning, [here](#)
- **Oxford Health, Parent-Run Support Groups:** for people supporting children with Mental Health difficulties. Meetings are on Teams and start on **22 September:** [link](#)

Year 7

- **Year 7 Bushcraft Camping Trip** to Penshurst Place, Kent, 15 June - 17 June 2026: [letter](#)
- As part of their equipment list, please can students have their **headphones** with them at all times, ideally a **3.5mm jack** headphone so that they fit into school computers - BlueTooth is harder to set up and more easily lost. Lots of pupils haven't had them this week for CAT testing with lots of these to go.

Year 8

- **Year 8 Parent Information Evening Slides:** [Here](#)
- **Open Evening:** Calling Year 8 guides to help with Open Evening on 24 September. Please see this [letter](#)
- **Uniform:** Year 8s should only come to school in kit on the days they have Dance (not Games or P.E).

Year 9

- **Year 9 Parent Information Evening Slides:** [Here](#)
- **Year 8-11 Indoor Hockey:** Autumn term [letter](#)
- **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh:** [presentation](#) and [letter](#)
- **Year 9 Drama, Noughts & Crosses Book:** [letter](#)
- **Year 9 D&T Revision Guide:** [letter](#)
- **Uniform reminder:** Year 9s should attend school in school uniform and changing Dance, P.E & Games

Year 10

- **Year 10 Parent Information Evening Slides:** [Here](#)
- **Year 8-11 Indoor Hockey:** Autumn term [letter](#)
- **Year 10 MFL Workbook & Revision Guide:** [letter](#)
- **Year 10 English, GCSE Set Texts:** [letter](#)
- **Silver Duke of Edinburgh:** [presentation](#) and [letter](#)

Year 11

- **Year 11 Parent Information Evening Slides:** [Here](#)
- **Year 8-11 Indoor Hockey:** Autumn term [letter](#)
- **Year 11 MFL GCSE Revision Books:** [letter](#)
- **Year 11 Mocks:** 24 November - 8 December

- **Year 11 Prom:** As discussed at the Year 11 information evening, if you or your child would like to be a part of the prom committee, please contact us via Year11enquiries@. Thank you!

Sixth Form

- **Y12-13 Drama *Hamlet* workshop** at National Theatre, 6 November 2025: [letter](#)
- **KS5 French trip to Montpellier**, 15 - 18 May 2026: [letter](#)
- **KS5 Spanish trip to San Sebastián**, 20 - 23 March 2026: [letter](#)
- **KS5 German trip to Munich**, 30 January 2026 - 2 February 2026: [letter](#)
- **KS5 German BFI Study Day**, 10 December 2025: [letter](#)
- **Year 12-13 Psychology Review Magazine:** [letter](#)
- **Year 12-13 Maths:** [letter](#)
- **16-19 Bursary:** please refer to [this link](#) to check if your child is eligible for Bursary. Please contact Mrs Laughton for further information. Year 13s who received Bursary last academic year must reapply.

Year 12

- **Year 12 Creative Writing**, Literature & Art History in Venice 6-9 March 2026: [letter](#)
- **Year 12 Biology in Action**, 14 November 2025: [letter](#)
- **Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award:** [presentation](#) and [letter](#)
- **Year 12 English Literature Educational Visit** to Lake District, 12-14 July 2026: [letter](#)
- **Year 12 Chemistry in Action** lectures, 8 December 2025: [letter](#)
- **Year 12 Drama, Machinal Book:** [letter](#)

Student Support Officers (SSOs) are available to support all students in their transition into A Levels. Over the next few weeks, each student in Year 12 will meet with their SSO. They are Mrs Fortnam (Britons, Danes, Normans) and Mrs Bull and Mrs Furley (Romans, Saxons, Vikings).

Year 13

- Year 13 English, 'Poems of the Decade' conference, 9 December 2025: [letter](#)

UCAS & Post-18 Pathways

- Final UCAS Predicted Grades Issued: Friday 26 September 2025
- Students should now submit final drafts of their UCAS personal statements to their mentors for review.
- If your son/daughter is still uncertain about university options or course choices, please encourage them to speak with their mentor or a member of the Sixth Form team.

Early UCAS Applicants

This applies to students applying to the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge AND Medicine, Dentistry, or Veterinary Medicine.

UCAS 'Pay and Send' Process

- 'Pay and Send' means the student has completed their UCAS application, paid the fee (£28.95), and submitted it for the school's final checks. The fee is waived for applicants that received free school meals during their secondary education.
- Applications are not sent to universities at this stage.
- Each student will subsequently have a final one-on-one meeting with a member of the Sixth Form team to review and submit their application.

'Pay and Send' Deadlines

- Early applicants: by 3.30 pm, Friday 26 September 2025
- All other applicants: by 9:00am, Monday 3 November 2025

UCAS Final Deadlines

- Early applicants: Wednesday 15 October 2025
- Non-early applicants: Thursday 15 January 2026, however, we aim to submit all applications by Thursday 18 December 2025.

Other Post-18 Pathways including Conservatoire Applications (Music, Dance, Drama):

- Applications are made either via UCAS or directly to institutions.
- Students should check specific entry requirements carefully.

Degree Apprenticeships:

- Requirements vary. Students should research individual application processes and deadlines.

Overseas University Applications:

- The Sixth Form team can support students with students wishing to apply to Universities overseas.

Year 13 Parents' Information Evening - Tuesday 7 October 2025 at 6:00pm (Theatre)

All parents and carers are warmly invited to attend. We will share key information, including about university applications, post-18 options, and how we will support your child in the coming months.

This Week at Borlase...



Borlase sports teams have seen a return to competitive action and it was lovely to see the Girls' and Boys' 1st XIs out on Colonel's Meadow competing against Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School and Dr Challoner's Grammar School respectively. In tough opening fixtures for both teams, the girls triumphed 4-3 in a game which could have gone either way while the 4-1 scoreline for the boys flattered our visitors. Nevertheless, both matches were played in great spirit and it was nice to see the supporters who had turned out to cheer our teams on. You can see the Borlase sports calendar [here](#).



On Wednesday afternoon, our Sixth Form students had grouped together to organise a Grandparents' Tea Party ("for grandparents or other significant people of grandparent age"), very much in keeping with the element of service we encourage from our senior students and strengthening community links. Enjoying songs from a Sixth Form choir, tea, and enough cake to sink a battleship, it was lovely to welcome our guests, some of whom had had children and now grandchildren go through the Borlase.



Thanks go to all of the parents who came in for the Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 Parent Information Evenings on Tuesday and Thursday. The Slides for these evenings are linked in the respective year group sections above for anyone who could not make it on the night. A clear theme running through all of the presentations was that, whatever year a student is in, it's going to be an important one! Year 8s choosing their options, Year 9s starting their options, Year 10s navigating the "Trough of Despair", and Year 11s warned sagely by Jude in Year 12 that "you don't have as much time as you think!" As for the Costa coffee cup on the left? IYKYK.



The last two weeks' Chapel Assemblies have been delivered to Year 7 and 8 Forms and explored the concept of respect, one of Borlase's seven core values. Rugby, for all its physicality, is a game with respect at its heart with the referee addressed as Sir, Ma'am, or Miss. Hopefully this weekend's semi-finals of the RWC won't disappoint. Examining sporting case studies, inspirational figures, and the political violence to have taken place in America this year among other themes, respect must be for oneself, for others, and for one's environment and that it is the bedrock of elite performance that we aspire to.



Have a great weekend (and may today's lovely weather last)

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.