



Headteacher's Letter: 18 September 2026

Upcoming Events

Mon 21 Sept	Year 11 Geography Field Trip to West Wittering, Group 2
Wed 23 Sept	Year 6 Open Evening - Please note, school closes at 1.40pm
Thur 24 Sept	Year 12-13 Drama Theatre Trip to Electra/Persona
Mon 28 Sept	Whole School Cross Country: student info here
Thur 1 Oct	Year 12-13 Drama Trip to the Story
Mon 5 Oct	MFL Bake Off
	GCSE Dance Set Phrase Exams
Tues 6 Oct	Year 13 History Trip to Kew Nations Archives and Hampton Court
Wed 7 Oct	Year 10/11 Drama Trip to Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime
Thur 8 Oct	Autumn Chamber Concert
Fri 9 Oct	Spanish Exchange Students Arrive



The Friends of Borlase: Upcoming Events

Fri 16 October: The **Laughing Chili Comedy Club** - tickets [here](#)

Thu 26 November: **Christmas Wreath Making, 6.30-9.30pm, Centenary Hall** - Save the Date!



Parent Fora

Thank you to all parents who contributed to the parent fora last year. The discussions were, and are, really useful in informing school improvement on reports and technology. If you would like to be involved please complete [this short Google Form](#). Meetings are termly; the first meeting will be Thursday 3 December from 5pm (Years 7-9) and 6pm (Years 10-13).



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 was a key piece of evidence in Robert Thorogood's *Marlow Murders* book. Artwork by Lucie in Year 13.

Information and Reminders

Whole School

- **Open Evening:** The school will close to all students at 13:40 on Wednesday 23 September for Open Evening. All students in Y8 and Y12 are expected to support the school by acting as Tour Guides for the evening from 17:10 to 20:15. Please see the information letter and Google permission slip [here](#). Year 13 Captains and Prefects are expected to attend for the evening and will be allocated roles from

16:30 to 20:30. Students in other year groups will be invited to attend to support in specific departments and you will receive separate letters regarding this. We thank you in advance for your support for one of the highlights of the school year.

- **MFL Bake Off - European Day of Languages - Monday 5 October**

Please complete this [Form](#) to enter the annual MFL Bake Off, follow all the instructions.

Please bring your bakes to the [Stuart Lever Room](#), along with the allergen form and a card with your cakes name/category and country (if applicable) from 08:10am - 08:30am **Monday 5 October**.

Judging will take place at break and the [charity cake sale will be at lunchtime](#).

Please bring cash or card with you for the bake sale!

- Oxford NHS Free Mental Health Webinars: [here](#)
- **SWBGS Question Time:** Save the date: 10 November 2026: [details](#)

Year 7

- **Year 7 Bushcraft Camping Trip, 14 - 16 June 2027:** [letter](#)
- **Year 7 Parent Information Evening Slides:** [here](#)
- **Auditions for Open Evening speakers:** Monday morning for those who have signed up
- **Year 7 Study visit to Windsor Castle, Friday 4 December 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 7 Strength and Conditioning Sessions – Autumn Term 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 7 Indoor Hockey - Autumn Term 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 7 [Homework timetable](#)**
- **Whole School House Cross Country:** Monday 28 September [student info here](#) - participation is the main focus so that all new Year 7s experience a positive first inter-house competition.

Year 8

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

Year 9

- **Year 9 Educational Visit to WW1 Sites in France and Belgium 8-10 June 2027:** [letter](#)
- **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award:** [letter](#)
- **Year 9 Indoor Hockey - Autumn Term 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 9 Set Texts:** [letter](#)
- **PSHE - It Happens:** [letter](#)

Year 10

- **Year 10 Parents Information Evening** [Slides](#)
- **Year 10 Religious Studies talk: Solutions Not Sides, 16 October 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 11 Drama trip to Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time, 7 October 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Duke of Edinburgh Presentations:** [here](#) and [here](#)
- **Year 10 Indoor Hockey - Autumn Term 2026:** [letter](#)
- **MFL Grammar, Vocabulary & Translation Workbooks & Revision Books:** [letter](#)
- **English Language Grammar and Spelling Workbooks:** [letter](#)
- **PSHE - It Happens:** [letter](#)

Year 11

- **Year 11 Parents Information Evening:** [Slides](#)
- **Year 11 Theatre Trip to Macbeth, 16 March 2027:** [letter](#)
- **Year 11 Indoor Hockey - Autumn Term 2026:** [letter](#)
- **English Language Grammar and Spelling Workbooks:** [letter](#)
- **PSHE - It Happens:** [letter](#)
- **Sixth Form Open Evening:** Priority Bookings for Internal Students: [Letter](#)

Sixth Form

- Year 12-13 theatre trip to *King Lear*, 4 November 2026: [letter](#)
- Year 12/13 Indoor Hockey - Autumn Term 2026: [letter](#)
- PSHE - It Happens: [letter](#)

Year 12

- Year 12 French Trip to Provence, 12 - 15 March 2027: [letter](#)
- Year 12 German and History trip to Berlin, 29 January - 1 February 2027: [letter](#)
- Year 12 Spanish Trip to San Sebastián, 19 - 22 March 2027: [letter](#)
- Year 12 Creative Writing, Literature & Art History in Venice, 5-8 March 2027: [letter](#)
- Year 12 English Literature Educational Visit to Lake District, 11-13 July 2027: [letter](#)
- Duke of Edinburgh Presentations: [here](#) and [here](#)

Year 13

- **Year 13 Parents' Information Evening, Tuesday 22 September, 6pm in the Theatre** - Parents only
Please submit any questions you may have in advance via [this form](#)
- **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...



In a school which is over 400 years old, there are already many traditions but on Sunday we may have started a new one as we held the first ever OB Day. "Back to School" means different things to students, staff, and parents at the end of a summer break but the intention of the OB Day is to provide former students (and current students and their families) with an opportunity to come back into school, to see what's changed, meet up with friends, and enjoy some exhibition sports matches. With thanks to the Old Borlasian Club, there were family-friendly activities like welly-wanging (surprisingly hard!) and crockery smash (incredibly satisfying!), as well as hockey, rowing, netball and tennis courtesy of the Sport and PE Team at Borlase.



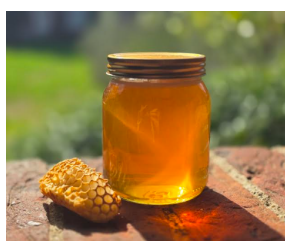
Now that we are in the second week of the academic year, it has been great to see students participating in the different activities they have signed up for. Borlase can sometimes feel like a school which never sleeps. Before school, the indoor hockey and rowing programmes are in full swing with dozens of students filing into school at 7am and a great number of Year 7 and 8 students doing S&C work on the Astro with a variety of fun and challenging exercises. At lunchtimes, jazz band and Cantorum have been rehearsing hard, and there has been a great turnout for the after-school netball and rugby practices.



The latest slots have been reserved for the staff and parents attending the Parent Information Evenings this week - thank you to everyone who came in for these to hear important information pertinent to your child's year group. It was lovely to be able to meet many of the Year 7 parents at the Cheese & Wine event hosted by the Friends of Borlase.



We encourage service in our Sixth Form students but if you as parents would like to help out with any future events, serving behind the bar, please contact them at friendsofborlase@gmail.com. As you'll have seen above, the next events are a Comedy Night and a Christmas Wreath-making evening in Centenary Hall.



If wreath making is a warning that the nights are about to start drawing in, the fine weather hasn't been and isn't being wasted. This week, Year 11 Geographers were at West Wittering for their fieldwork visit and Rubik's Cube Club was on Cloisters lawn this breaktime. But over summer, it was the Borlase bees from the hive by the tennis courts who were busiest and, with great excitement, we can present the first jars of Borlase honey! Mrs Fortnam and Mrs Bownass have done a fantastic job of taking care of the colonies and you will soon be able to see the whole journey on the school's Instagram account [@borlasegrammar](https://www.instagram.com/borlasegrammar).



In the last weeks' Chapel Assemblies, I have been drawing on my summer reading of Mary Beard's *Talking Classics: The Shock of the Old* and *The Rest is Politics* podcast in an exhortation to search for evidence, reflect on the past, to agree disagreeably, and to manifest "pronoia", the opposite of paranoia, taking advantage of all of the opportunities that the universe places in front of us. And on that note, with seasonable weather ahead...

Have a lovely weekend!

Ed Goodall
Headteacher

HERE & NOW ANNUAL FUND

We are indebted to the generosity of past and present members of our community, without whose financial support we could not provide the opportunities currently on offer at Borlase. Please click [here](#) to find out what your support helps to provide, and how you could make a donation.