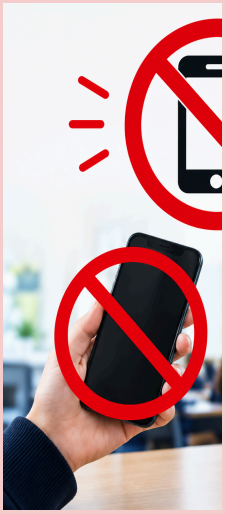
SIR WILLIAM BORLASE'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL
West Street, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, SL7 2BR
enquiries@swbgs.com
Telephone: 01628 816500
Headteacher: Mr E Goodall

Headteacher's Letter: 16 October 2026

Upcoming Events

Mon 2 Nov	**Return to school: 08:40, correct uniform, worn correctly.**
Tues 3 Nov	IT Happens Workshops Years 11 and 13
Wed 4 Nov	Yr 12/13 French BFI Study Day
	Yr 12/13 Theatre Trip to King Lear
	Year 10 and 11 Peru 2028 online launch meeting (see details below)
Thurs 5 Nov	*Rocktober!* Tickets Here
Mon 9 Nov	Yr 12 Biology in Action
	Yr 13 Politics US Conference
Tues 10 Nov	Question Time, 7pm
	Yr 12 Space to Learn Physics Workshop
Wed 11 Nov	Whole School Remembrance Service
	English Schools Chess Championship Qualifier
Thurs 12 Nov	House Drama Finals - Tickets Here
	Yr 10 French Onatti Theatre Production
Fri 13 Nov	Yr 12 and 13 GB Rowing Long Distance Trail
	Yr 12 Spanish BFI Study Day
	Yr 7 Chaucer Talk





Mobile Phone Rule Changes *after October Half Term*

Following surveys of staff, students, and parents at the end of last year, we will be introducing the following rules, effective from Monday 2 November, which follow the principle of "Not Seen, Not Used, Not Heard":

- **Gate to 3.30pm:** Mobile phones must not be used by students from arrival on the school site until 3.30pm.
- **Phones in School:** phones must be switched off and stored safely in bags or lockers.
- **Learning:** no student in any year group is required to have a smartphone. A suitable alternative will be provided on the occasions when staff may invite those with devices to use them.
- **Residential Visits:** no phones or internet devices for Years 7 and 8. Years 9 to 11 will give their phones (and any internet enabled device) to members of staff in the evening and overnight.
- **Sports Fixtures and day trips:** no phones for Years 7 and 8.
- **Sixth Form Exceptions:** Sixth Form students may continue to use phones in designated areas including Centenary Hall and the Sixth Form study areas.
- **Connected Devices including SmartWatches:** these are subject to the same rules.

Sanctions: phones or smartwatches which are seen, heard or used outside of these times will be confiscated for 3 days for a first offence, and 5 days for a second offence. For the third offence 5 days and a parent/carer will need to collect the phone

If you are concerned about the temptation a phone might pose to your child, or how to track your child if their phone is confiscated:

- Buy them a brick phone or back-up brick phone with a pay-as-you-go SIM card
- Fit an air-tag or similar to your child's bag so you can track them
- Print out timetables and bus passes so they don't need to be accessed from a phone

The Slides used to brief students in assemblies are linked here

The Friends of Borlase: Upcoming Events

Thu 26 November: **Christmas Wreath Making, 6.30-9.30pm, Centenary Hall:** tickets here

If you would like to join the Friends of Borlase, contact them at friendsofborlase@gmail.com



The Borlase Boat Club Christmas Tree Sale

Yes, it really is the time of year to be thinking about such things! The Boat Club will again be raising funds selling top quality Christmas trees from 5' to 8'6" with prices starting at £55 for collection or delivery on Saturday 5 December.

The Form order is **here**. Orders must be placed by 20 November.

Information and Reminders

Whole School

- **Rocktober! Thursday 5 November 2026: Tickets on sale now!** letter
- **House Drama Final, Thursday 12 November 2026:** letter Tickets
- **Safeguarding Newsletter:** Here

Year 7

- **Well done** to all out year 7s for completing their first half term at Borlase. We look forward to enjoying lessons, clubs, trips and everything that comes with school life in November and December.
- **Games lessons**: Change of sports on the first Tuesday after Half Term.
  NB the weather will turn as we approach xmas and we strongly advise that students bring plenty of layers (Not one large coat) to help keep warm.
  All Girls Netball - Onsite - wear your new games top, skort / shorts & white socks. You will need clean trainers (**not AF1 or similar fashion shoes**)
  All Boys Hockey @ Marlow Sports club - wear your reversible games top, lightweight PE Shorts & Long Black Socks. You will also need your **gum shield and shin guards. Boys, please be aware that you will not return to the school site until 2.15pm - you must make sure to eat at break.**
  - **Boys Rugby** fixtures first week back - see SOCs for team info. There will be an A and B team game. Squads have been selected but are not fixed. Movement will likely happen between the teams. Parents welcome to come and support.

Year 8

- **Ask your Year 8s about their involvement in 'Restart a Heart Day' which** is an annual global initiative held every 16 October (with events running throughout the month) to raise awareness about cardiac arrests and teach people how to perform CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and use a defibrillator (AED).
- **PSHE** all Year 8s either this week or after half term are working on a lesson developed by Wellbeing of Women. It focuses on menstrual health and aims to increase young people's confidence to talk about periods and challenge period stigma

Year 9

- There is no Year 9-specific information this week

Year 10

- **True Adventure - Peru Summer 2028.** This is an exciting opportunity for current Year 10 and 11s (who will be at the end of Year 11 and Year 12 in 2028) to undertake a three week trip trekking in Peru. Building on successful trips to Cambodia and Ecuador, this trip will be an incredible experience! Parent Information Evening Wednesday 04 November, 6pm, ONLINE. Please use the QR code or the link in the letter to register for the online meeting and receive the link for the meeting.
  Letter to parents: link and **Flyer link with QR code**

- **PSHE - It Happens:** letter
- **Ask your Year 10s about their involvement in 'Restart a Heart Day' which** is an annual global initiative held every 16 October (with events running throughout the month) to raise awareness about cardiac arrests and teach people how to perform CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and use a defibrillator (AED).
- **Parent webinar *Revision Mastery*: supporting your child with their revision -** Wed 4 November 6-7pm (online). Led by *Exam Study Expert* founder William Wadsworth : letter

Year 11

- **True Adventure - Peru Summer 2028.** This is an exciting opportunity for current Year 10 and 11s (who will be at the end of Year 11 and Year 12 in 2028) to undertake a three week trip trekking in Peru. Building on successful trips to Cambodia and Ecuador, this trip will be an incredible experience! Parent Information Evening Wednesday 04.11 6pm ONLINE. Please use the QR code or the link in the letter to register for the online meeting and receive the link for the meeting.
    - **Letter to parents: link**
    - **Flyer link with QR code**
- **Year 11 Formal Practice Exams (Mocks):** these will take place from Monday 23 November 2026 to Monday 7 December 2026. The timetable is **here**. Please also read the **handbook**. The subject specific guidance is **here**. MFL mock orals will take place from Tuesday 5 November 2026 and students have been emailed their date and time directly. Please note: Year 11 students will return to full, normal lessons on Friday 4 December 2026 unless they study Art
- **2027 Summer Examination Series:** letter
- **Revision Checklists and Teacher Recommended revision -** Both documents are on the students Year 11 classroom.
- **PSHE - It Happens:** letter
- **Parent webinar *Revision Mastery*: supporting your child with their revision -** Wed 4 November 6-7pm (online). Led by *Exam Study Expert* founder William Wadsworth : letter
- **GCSE PE: Videos Reminder**
    - Some practical sports are regularly competed in at school. This means teachers are likely to observe performances in these. These activities are: Athletics, Hockey, Cricket, Football, Rugby, Netball, Badminton, Tennis. We may take some video footage in case students are unable to take part in moderation due to injury so evidence of their performance is available.
    - Other practical sports we never compete in at school. This means teachers will not get to observe these live performances (Equestrian / Swimming / Skiing). Some practical sports we compete in at school but the student may perform at a higher level in a club outside of school. Video footage is required for these two options.

  Final assessments will be made in:
  Summer of Year 10 - Athletics, Cricket, Tennis
  Autumn of Year 11 - Football, Rugby, Netball, Badminton, Hockey
  For this, the student will be awarded marks by school staff and, if relevant, will be asked to perform live in their sport on moderation day.

Sixth Form

- **2027 Summer Examination Series Letter:** here
- **PSHE - It Happens:** letter
- **Parent webinar *Revision Mastery*: supporting your child with their revision -** Wed 4 November 6-7pm (online). Led by *Exam Study Expert* founder William Wadsworth : letter

Year 12

- **Year 12 Geography Field Trip to Cranedale, 1-5 March 2027:** letter
- **National Gallery Articulation Discovery Day, 17 November 2026:** letter

Year 13

- **Year 13 Eccles Institute *US Politics* Conference, 9 November 2026:** letter
- **UCAS Pay and Send Deadline for non-Early Entry Students:** Monday 2 November 2026

This Week at Borlase...





















"Every day is a school day" or, to give the catchphrase of one of my university friends, delivered with faux-philosophical gravitas, "You never stop learning." In a school, that is hardly revelatory, but learning doesn't just happen in the timetable of 25 lessons per week and it isn't just the students who learn either…

There has been no winding down for half term this week, when our super-curricular activities have included:

- Mr Tekerian and Mrs Phillips have judged over 300 entries from more than 500 students and staff in the House Drama heats which have taken place this week
- Monday's *IT Happens* PSHE sessions for Year 11 students about how to keep themselves safe at festivals and concentrated on Next Steps for Year 13s which is particularly appropriate as the vast majority have either sent or are preparing to send their UCAS applications before the end of the year
- "Restart-a-Heart" training for Years 8 and 10, the national programme that teaches them how to perform CPR should the need to, potentially saving a life.
- William Wadsworth, the Exam Study Expert, has been in school, working with senior students with their mock exams on the horizon and, as everyone should know, Practice makes… *permanent*. *Good* practice makes perfect. So developing the right habits now is all-important.
- On Friday we welcomed in 'Solutions Not Sides', with speakers of Israeli and Gazan heritage, both of whom had lost close relatives in the ongoing war in the Middle East, delivering thoughtful messages of tolerance, understanding, and peaceful resolution.

There is plenty to be talked about at the dinner table over the half term break.

On Wednesday evening we welcomed over 1,000 guests into school for our Sixth Form Open Evening with current Borlase Year 11s rubbing shoulders with visitors from other local and not-so-local secondary schools, keen to see what our Sixth Form offer is all about. My thanks go to Mr Hussain and our Sixth Form speakers, Aleeza, Raffy, and Margherita, all the staff who gave talks and answered questions in their respective areas, and our wonderful Year 12 and 13 students who acted as guides, representing everything that we are most proud of at Borlase.

Inspired by the European Day of Languages, my Chapel assembly for the last fortnight has been about the importance of language and communication. From the late Queen Elizabeth's greeting of the Irish President and People in Irish Gaelic in 2011, to the 200 languages and dialects across Europe, to the Mars rover worked on simultaneously by scientists in Spain and engineers in California using all-important common terminology, the importance is to try and listen to one another, to understand one another, and to be prepared to have a go. Proving that they were listening, I learned from Mr Lofthouse that WD40 owes its name to the fact that iterations WD1 to WD39 didn't work but they didn't give up, while Miss Pike told me about the 1998 Mars Climate Orbiter which broke into pieces in space, all because two different units of measurement were being used… Practising what I was preaching, having joined them for a full English breakfast this morning, I endeavoured to welcome our Spanish Exchange guests from Avila to the Chapel assembly in their language. Suffice to say, their English is far better than my Spanish, but they seem to have had a brilliant time staying with their exchange partners so thank you to all the families who have hosted over the last week.

Final congratulations in this end-of-half-term letter go to Zara who was the winner of the Borlase Honey label-designing competition which Mrs Fortnam organised. Zara's label is on the left and you can see her with her prize of a pot of Borlase honey too!

Thank you for your hard work and support. I hope you all have a lovely half term break,



Ed Goodall
Headteacher

House Cup Standings

After the first half term, Britons have made a strong start in the defence of the House Cup last year but, with five sixths of the year still to go, there remains plenty to play, act, sing, work and perform for…

House Cup Points Total - Autumn Half Term 1 2026/2027

Tier 1 Competitions **Tier 2 Competitions** **Tier 3 competitions** **SIMS House Points Placing**

	TOTALS	Inter-form House Comp 1	House Cross Country	Inter-form House Comp 2	MFL Bake-off	SIMS House Points Autumn Half Term 1
Britons	205	8	120	12	25	40
Vikings	185	25	70	20	50	20
Saxons	165	15	50	15	60	25
Normans	163	4	100	4	45	10
Danes	155	12	80	8	25	30
Romans	155	20	60	25	35	15

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.