



Headteacher's Letter: 7 November 2025

Upcoming Events

Tue 11 November	Year 12 Politics Trip to Westminster Remembrance Service
Wed 12 November	Year 12-13 French Study day, British Film Institute
Thurs 13 November	Year 12 EMC Literary Conference, Friends House, London
Fri 14 November	Year 12 Biology in Action, Emmanuel Centre, London The Friends of Borlase Hockey - Quiz Night - tickets
Wed 19 November	Friends of Borlase Wreath Making
Thurs 20 November	KS5 Physics Workshop and Careers talk, Royal Grammar School Autumn Concert (7pm) - tickets
Sat 22 November	Year 10 German Exchange, German students in UK, 22-28 November Year 13 Physics UK Space Design Competition, Imperial College, London
Tues 25 November	Year 7 Tutor Review Meetings
Wed 26 November	Year 10 German Exchange joint trip to Warner Bros Studios

Sequere - the Autumn edition

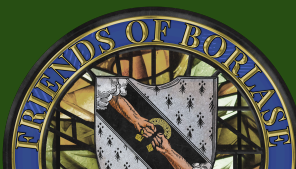


This term's visually stunning edition of the Captains' Magazine, *Sequere*, is [here](#)!

There's an American vibe with a cast reveal of this year's Senior Musical, *West Side Story*, and an insider report from the Sixth Form students' recent visit to Washington and New York as well as a look back to Rocktober, School Cross Country, the MFL Bake Off, various sporting encounters, as well as sections from International Relations Soc, FemSoc and Girls in STEM, as well as an Arts section with the poetry competition winners!



Festive Fun at Borlase...



The Friends of Borlase Wreath Making Workshop

The Friends of Borlase have organised a Christmas Wreath Making Workshop presented by Anya Lautenbach, author of *The Money-Saving Garden Year* ✨🌲

Join us in Centenary Hall for a wonderful evening of creativity and festive cheer on Wednesday, 19th November, 7-9pm. Your ticket includes:

- ☀️ A glass of mulled wine or prosecco
- ☀️ Mince pies and hot drinks
- ☀️ Bar available to purchase extra drinks!

Tickets are £50 per person, available to purchase [here](#).

Information and Reminders

Whole School

- **Poppies: The school is very proud to support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and Poppies are available in reception. Poppy badges are also available for a £3 donation**
- **Term Dates 2026-27:** [Here](#)
- **School Photographs are ready to be collected from reception:** If you have ordered anything from a print to a snow globe they are ready to be collected by either parents/carers or students any time up to 4.15pm
- **Flu Vaccinations for Students in Years 7 to 11:** [letter](#)
- **Social Media Safety Guide:** A quick look guide from The Children's Society [here](#)
- **Autumn Concert - Thursday 20 November, 7pm:** [tickets](#) [letter](#)

Year 7

- Some students and parents have raised concerns regarding a type of **WhatsApp** group known as 'Add Everyone', with some students in SWBGS being affected. These groups can expose children to explicit and harmful material. There have been a couple of active groups in particular highlighted to us. If your child uses WhatsApp we would encourage you to explore their account together and discuss openly any issues at hand. Some guidance from a reputable site (this is a NI government site) is linked in here giving more details about the problem and advice on how to protect and care for your children. safer.schoolsni.co.uk
- **Year 7 Tutor Review Meetings** - Tuesday 25 November 2025 [letter](#)
- and information on how to book your appointment will come out shortly after half term
- **PSHE** - After half term we will begin watching some episodes of **Ask Lara** - a BBC animation that was originally broadcast on the BBC2 Learning Zone. The episodes are only available now on YouTube and we may from time to time ask students to watch them at home for homework - we promote watching them downstairs so that you can have eyes on your child's screen - parents may enjoy watching episodes with their child. An example episode is linked in [here](#) to give you a flavour of the series and the first episode we've watched in PSHE this week.
- [Bounce Forward](#) link here to **4,500 FREE parent places available to the highly rated 'Raise Resilience'**; this will help parents and compliment the 12 resilience lessons we teach across year 7 and 8 in PSHE.
- TDS Bronze Award - this week and next week we are launching the school award with the year 7s. Speak to your child about the award. [THIS LINK](#) provides more detail.

Year 8

- **Uniform:** Year 8s should only come to school in kit on the days they have Dance (not Games or P.E).
- **Year 8 UKSA Isle Of Wight residential activity week, 30 June - 3 July 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Flu Vaccinations for Students in Years 7 to 11:** [letter](#)

Year 9

- **Drama Theatre Trip** to *A Christmas Carol Goes Wrong*, 5 February 2026: [letter](#)
- **GCSE and A Level Dance trip** to Matthew Bourne's *Red Shoes*, 5 December 2025: [letter](#)
- **PSHE - It Happens workshops:** [letter](#)

Year 10

- **Year 10 Drama trip** to *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, 7 May 2025: [letter](#)
- **GCSE and A Level Dance trip** to Matthew Bourne's *Red Shoes*, 5 December 2025: [letter](#)
- **Exam Success: a Parent's Guide webinar slides:** many thanks to all who attended William Wadsworth's webinar. Please find the slides linked [here](#).
- **PSHE - It Happens workshops:** [letter](#)

Year 11

- **Y11 Drama theatre trip** to *Playboy of the Western World*, 15 January 2026: [letter](#)

- **GCSE and A Level Dance trip to Matthew Bourne's Red Shoes, 5 December 2025:** [letter](#)
- **Exam Success: a Parent's Guide webinar slides:** many thanks to all who attended William Wadsworth's webinar. Please find the slides linked [here](#).
- **Year 11 formal Practice Exams:** Monday 24 November - Friday 5 December - [Handbook Timetable](#)
 - On the Year 11 Google Classroom, there are revision materials, such as a revision timetable, checklists for their GCSEs and a guide on *How to Revise*.
- **NEA Subject Specific Internal Dates 2025/26:** [here](#)
- **2026 Summer Exam Series Letter:** [here](#)
- **PSHE - It Happens workshops:** [letter](#)

Sixth Form

Exam certificates

For those who took their exams at Borlase in the summer - GCSEs or AS levels - certificates will be issued through tutor groups next week. Parents/Carers, please ask your child for the envelope as there is only ever one certificate produced and school cannot keep copies. Replacement certificates cost in the region of £50 each, and most students have at least 2, so it is important that they are kept safely.

For those who took A level exams at Borlase in the summer, or who left at the end of year 11, certificates will be available for collection from the middle of next week and the instructions for how students should approach this can be found [here](#) on the school website.

- **Year 12-13 English and Drama theatre trip to All My Sons, 28 January 2026:** [letter](#)
- **A Level and GCSE Dance trip to Matthew Bourne's Red Shoes, 5 December 2025:** [letter](#)
- **Exam Success: a Parent's Guide webinar slides:** many thanks to all who attended William Wadsworth's webinar. Please find the slides linked [here](#). Parents in Year 11 and 12, you may also want to refer to your child's workbook, completed during the student session with William at the end of last half term.
- **Year 12-13 Physics workshop and careers talk at RGS, 20 November 2025:** [letter](#)
- **2026 Summer Exam Series Letter:** [here](#)
- **PSHE - It Happens workshops:** [letter](#)

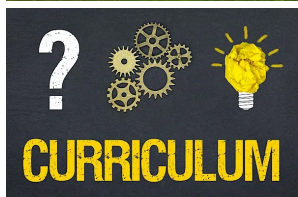
Year 12

- **Year 12 Work Experience:** Students are invited to complete up to three days of work experience between 3 November 2025 and 4 July 2026. Placements should be arranged independently, ideally using personal or family contacts. The school will also share opportunities through the weekly Sixth Form briefing. Where possible, work experience should take place during school holidays, however, leave of absence during term time may be granted if necessary; please ensure a request form is completed in advance. All placements must be recorded and approved on Unifrog at least three weeks prior to beginning a placement. Parents are also asked to ensure that students share any relevant health or personal information, such as allergies, injuries, disabilities or diagnoses with employers, so that appropriate workplace adjustments can be made. If necessary, please contact Mrs Wingrove, our Career Lead, for guidance on how to complete the process.

Year 13

- **University & Apprenticeship Interviews 2025/26** - Permission form to be completed by parents/carers for all absences from school: [Letter and Permissions Form](#)
- **UCAS:** Oxford and Cambridge University applicants may receive requests for supplementary information, which will be sent directly by the universities. These requests are not managed by the school, but we are happy to offer guidance on how to respond to them. For more details on the process, follow these links: [Cambridge](#), [Oxford](#).
- **Conservatoire Applications (Music, Dance, Drama):** Applications are made either via UCAS or directly to institutions. Students should check specific entry requirements carefully.
- **Important Calendar Dates**
 - **Year 13 Mock Exams:** Tue 6 January 2026 - Monday 19 January 2026. Study leave is granted during this period. Details of timing of exams will be communicated in due course.
 - **Last teaching day:** Wednesday 6 May 2026
 - **Leavers' Chapel Assembly followed by Leavers' Celebration:** Thursday 7 May 2026
 - **Year 13 Prom: Crowne Plaza, Wed 24 June 2026** - a date for your diary

This Week at Borlase...



I hope that you had an enjoyable and restful half term break. Inspired by Leo and Jacob's walk in the last letter, I used one day to take the train to Maidenhead, walking home along the Thames Path. The leaves were just turning then but now, having returned to school, there is no mistaking that we are deep into the Autumn as the Field muddies and the evenings draw in.

Nevertheless, Borlase sports teams have been in action this week, indoors and outdoors. In rugby, the Year 7 A and B team enjoyed victories over local rivals, John Hampden Grammar School while the Boys' 1st XV eeked out a narrow 29-26 win over Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School. The U16 indoor hockey team recorded victories over Stowe School and John Hampden while the Year 7 Girls' football team played out a spirited fixture against St Michael's. I didn't see any goals scored during the time I was on Quoitings so we're agreeing to call it 0-0! The team then beseech their coach, Mr Sharps, to put on another training session before their match next week. We love that enthusiasm (and appreciate all the staff who give up their time at lunch and after school to run sessions).

If you have followed education in the news this week, you will be aware that the results of the Curriculum Review have been published. Among the proposals are removal of the EBacc measure, providing the ability for all students to study separate Sciences, reducing GCSE examination length, and promoting Arts education. While questions remain about its delivery and possible impact, there is general alignment with our philosophy of breadth and choice at Borlase.

Thank you to all more-than-100 parents and carers who joined William Wadsworth, the Exam Study Expert, for his webinar looking at revising smarter and, critically, how students can be supported with their revision at home. The slides for this are linked in the information sections above.

After the half term break, I think a number of the students and staff have enjoyed the return to school routine this week. Nevertheless, it doesn't stop the flow of ordinarily extraordinary interactions and occurrences that take place around the school. Vice Captain, Izzy, arrived slightly late to my regular meeting with the Captains at break time on Wednesday - she and 37 other students had been taking part in the United Kingdom Linguistics Olympiad. I can't share much detail because the paper remains under embargo but if you want a challenge, you can access their practice materials [here](#) - a great way to spend a rainy, Autumn weekend. Elsewhere around school, a group of Year 10s had been creating their own language through which they would hand down a secret family recipe while a Year 8 student was being guided, blindfold, around Colonel's Meadow as a challenge. Ordinarily extraordinary.

Next week we look forward to our Remembrance Day commemoration on Tuesday, remembering the 100 Borlasians who fell during the Great War and the Second World War. We also have the first rounds of the House Music competition which has seen a staggering 400 entries from students with the "whole house" Britpop numbers to come later in the term.

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 on offer at Borlase. Please click [here](#) to find out what your support helps to provide, and how you could make a donation.