



BALCARRAS
From strength to strength

NEWSLETTER

Welcome from the Headteacher

Dear Parents,

It is always a lovely feeling to reach the end of the summer term. It has been another highly successful year at Balcarras but everyone is now ready for a break. I have been ever so impressed by our young people this year. They continue to be a delight to work with and for.

These last few weeks of term have been very enjoyable with Activities Week as the highlight yet again. It is great to spend 5 days learning in different ways and in different settings and the camaraderie between staff and pupils is a joy to witness. I would like to thank all of the staff but particularly Mrs Massey for her superb organisation.

We have over the last few weeks seen a range of residential trips out of the school as well. These include, Berlin, the French and Belgian Battlefields, the Normandy trip, Gold D of E, Year 9 Camp in the Forest and the Expedition to Costa Rica. I am grateful to those colleagues who have given up their time so that these trips can run.

I would like to include a couple of particular thank you messages in this final newsletter of the year. Firstly, I would like to thank the parents of Balcarras for all of your support. We are very fortunate to have such committed and supportive parents. Secondly, I would like to thank the Governors of Balcarras and the Trustees of the Balcarras Trust. They do superb work for the school and its pupils and of course they do it on a volunteer basis. We are very fortunate to have them.

Keep up to date on all our news:

WWW.BALCARRAS.GLOUCS.SCH.UK

STAFF LEAVING THE SCHOOL
DOMINIC BURKE, HEADTEACHER

This time of year is always bitter sweet. There is of course a mood of celebration as we contemplate the summer holiday ahead, but at the same time sadness as we say farewell to colleagues who are moving on. Mrs Vicky Bull is leaving Balcarras to join The High School Leckhampton as Head of House. Mrs Bull has clocked up a quarter century of service at Balcarras and has for almost all of that time run the school's Duke of Edinburgh provision. She has done a superb job and we will miss her very much. Mrs Sarah Jane Cooper has been a Teaching Assistant here for 17 years and is leaving today. We wish her well for the future. Mr Patrick Sexton is leaving the history department after 14 years sterling service to the school. Mr Ben Hawker is leaving maths, Miss Jodie Wilkinson is leaving history and Mr Caleb Horne is leaving after one year as our Music and Drama technician. We wish all of them well for the future. I would also like to recognise the contribution of Mrs Kate Daniel. She has been our Product Design technician for 5 years. She isn't leaving but will next year train to teach DT as part of our Teacher Training Programme here.

BALCARRAS' WIDER ROLE IN THE EDUCATIONAL LANDSCAPE
DOMINIC BURKE, HEADTEACHER

Some parents might not be aware, but Balcarras plays an important role in leading the education system in the southwest. We run The Teaching School Hub for Cheltenham Stroud and The Cotswolds which covers some 170 schools. The hub coordinates the induction of Early Career Teachers, organises many National Professional Qualifications and also acts as an Appropriate Body for the accreditation of new teachers. We are also the lead school in the GLOW Maths Hub which leads the development of maths education in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire. In addition to all of this Balcarras is the lead school for the Gloucestershire Initial Teacher Education Partnership which is a secondary teacher training course based across the county. I would like to pay tribute to all of the staff who work on these initiatives. Each one is crucial to the development of education in the region and it is great that Balcarras is at the centre of the action.

BEST WISHES FOR THE SUMMER
DOMINIC BURKE, HEADTEACHER

Finally from me...I do hope that you all have a lovely summer. If you are staying in the UK surely the weather can only get better! I am going to Hampshire for a few days and I'm then spending a week in Denmark. Whatever you are up to I hope you have a nice time.

START OF AUTUMN TERM
NEIL BAXTER, DEPUTY HEADTEACHER

Mon 2nd Sept INSET for all staff. Pupils are not in school

Tues 3rd Sept Year 7 and Year 12 pupils only in school

Weds 4th Sept All pupils in school

Thurs 5th Sept All pupils in school

Fri 6th Sept School finishes early for all pupils at 12:15pm

BATTLEFIELDS – MENIN GATE CEREMONY

PADDY SEXTON, TEACHER OF HISTORY

During Activities Week 41 Balcarras pupils travelled to Belgium and France to tour the First World War Battlefields. As part of this trip our pupils were able to take part in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres. Three Balcarras pupils, Edward Wheeler, Hannah Box and Alma Tillman laid a wreath during the ceremony as the rest of the group, along with hundreds of members of the public, watched on.

They were an absolute credit to the school and their families! Several members of the public were particularly complimentary about how smart they looked, and how well they conducted themselves.

It is a very moving ceremony, all the more so when you realise that it happens every single day.



MFL YEAR 7 FRENCH HOUSE SPELLING BEE

BETH RABJOHNS, TEACHER OF MFL



At the end of the Summer term, the MFL department hosted the final of our annual Year 7 French House Spelling Bee competition. Year 7s from every tutor group worked very hard, throughout the year, to learn up to 100 French words and how to spell them using the French alphabet. Weekly competitions were held in each Year 7 French class, with the highest scorers making it through to the stage 2 of the competition.

Congratulations to all who took part. The field this year was very strong so we would also like to thank our 3 runners up : Isla Potter, Ethan Holt and Will Foster.

This year's winner, Evan Richardson (7S1), successfully spelt 14 words in a minute and won the trophy for Selvey House! Félicitations!

CONGRATULATIONS!

AIDEN WELLFAIR

Congratulations to Aiden Wellfair who completed the English three peaks challenge in a little over 24 hours in the worst imaginable conditions. He has raised £4,000 for Cobalt medical charity in the process, an organisation that gave his Dad lifesaving care when he had cancer recently.

Their justgiving page is still live so please do support them if you can.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/ashley-wellfair-1715707780419>



MUSIC LESSONS - SEPTEMBER

MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR

If you have signed your child up for music lessons for September, please ensure that payment has been made via Scopy in order for your child to be timetabled for these lessons.

YEAR 7 SCIENCE POSTCARD COMPETITION!
ALAN SPRING WALLIS, HEAD OF SCIENCE

YEAR 7 SCIENCE POSTCARD COMPETITION 2024

What is it?

Send us a postcard* describing and explaining an aspect of science. It could be:

- Specific to where you went on holiday
- About a scientist
- About an invention
- About a building/structure to do with science

How do I win?

Prizes will be awarded for the following categories:

- Best content
- Clearest explanation
- Most creative

What do I win?

1st prize in each category: £5 Amazon voucher (+badge +stickers)
Highly commended: Science badge + stickers

What's the deadline?

End of the first week back:
Friday 6th September 2024



Hints:

[You can use diagrams]

[Remember a postcard has two sides]

[Don't post it! Use the address lines for more space]

[We will accept anything that's postcard size, you don't have to buy one]

[Inspiration can be found anywhere]

*you don't have to post it! You can hand it in to your science teacher!

YEAR 8,9 AND 10 P AND Q BANDS NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

GARY TOWERS, DEPUTY HEADTEACHER

Year 8

As pupils move into Year 8 and so are more familiar with the school, they are mixed with others from across the year group for their teaching classes. In order to do this, pupils are placed randomly on the P or Q half of the year. This placement is checked by the Heads of House and the individual learning department to make sure it is appropriate. This means pupils will not be in their tutor groups for lessons. We do this to allow pupils to develop their social skills (working and interacting with new people) in a controlled classroom environment. Pupils remain in their tutor groups for tutor time and personal development lessons.

Year 9

As pupils move from Year 8 into Year 9 they stay in the same band (P or Q). Within this band the mix of pupils within each class will change based on the learning needs identified by each subject area.

Year 10

For option subjects pupils will be taught in classes made up of pupils from across the Year group based on the options they have selected.

In core subjects pupils will be mixed with others from the same band they are in (P or Q). Pupils are placed randomly on the P or Q half of the year. This placement is checked by the Heads of House and the individual learning department to make sure it is appropriate. The band they are in this year may be different from last year and this mixing is intentional. This is to allow pupils to develop their social skills (working and interacting with new people) in a controlled classroom environment. Pupils remain in their tutor groups for tutor time and personal development lessons.

We would encourage parents to talk about this with their children over the summer. For most pupils the opportunity to work with a new group of people is exciting but some can be a little nervous.

INTER-FORM RELAY

RUSS YOUNG, TEACHER OF MATHS

The inaugural Balcarras Inter-Form relay saw every form race in a mixed 8x100m competition across the summer term. Some excellent performances from the younger forms saw 7F1, 7G1, 8S2 and 8O1 make their way to the quarter finals, where they valiantly succumbed to older forms. 9S1 overcame 10O1 in the first semi-final, whilst 9F2 also qualified following an unfortunate forfeit by 10G1, who had set a new school record of 1:50.6 in their quarter final which remains standing now.

The final between 9F2 and 9S1 saw the lead change hands several times before 9S1 emerged victorious. The competition was a huge success and will return next year where 9S1 can look to defend their title - plenty of time for baton changing practise before then!



EcoCLUB JON PEARCE

The school Eco club did a collaborative project with the Eco club from The High School Leckhampton.

Pupils from Balcarras Ecoclub have been looking at more ways to make our school more sustainable. They worked on a project organised by the charity 'InterClimate Network' and local business 'Benefact house' to create a media campaign for one of our projects.

The group focused on Energy monitoring in school and created a slogan and video to promote our scheme to reduce the amount of energy we produce as a school. In September we will launch this campaign to get tutor groups involved in making sure lights, computers and smart screens are turned off when not in use.

As a school we have taken a number of steps to reduce our carbon footprint. We have 2 set of 10KW solar panels and have just installed 5 electric charge points for staff and visitors to the school. Over the summer we are putting in an inverter to reduce the demand for electricity. This will lower the voltage to 220Volts and is designed to lower our CO2 emissions by 6%.

The end of the trip saw pupils using social media to promote the event as well as making a video. Watch this space next September for more updates.

SKI TRIP TO NORWAY 2025 MALCOLM DEAN, SKI TRIP ORGANISER

To date 90 pupils have signed up for the Ski Trip to Myrkdalen in Norway next February ½ term.

The trip will be split into Junior and Senior groups.

A few spaces remain ... see below.

Junior group (currently pupils in Years 7 to 9; *next year's 8 to 10*)

- Depart Sunday February 16th ... return Saturday February 22nd
- Coach A (Years 7 and 9) ... two spaces available
- Coach B (Year 8) ... two spaces available

Senior group (currently pupils in Years 10 to 12; *next year's 11 to 13*)

- Depart Monday February 17th ... return Sunday February 23rd
- 12 spaces have been reserved for the new Year 12 intake in September.

Should pupils currently in Year 10 wish to participate please contact Mr Dean ... space could be found subject to more rooms becoming available in Myrkdalen.

mcd@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

MUSIC NEWS

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

There's been such a lot going on recently, it's difficult to know where to start!

MM24

Midsummer Music 24 was a huge success, with more students than ever taking part – and the weather held out till (almost!)



Bravo to everyone who took part and who was a member of the production team and crew. As ever, the cleaning team and site did a fantastic job – the school was looking stunning!
And we had the world debut of our magnificent drone club team in the Hall!

The standard of musicianship was a total joy to behold throughout the evening! Big thanks to our team of alumni (Gemma Veal, Robbie McElroy, Jacob Bruton and Jamie Mazzocchi) who came back to help and, of course, huge thanks to Tony Bennett, Nicola Shorland, George Douglas, Tracey Vacher & Nathan King from our VMT team, who were on hand all day and evening...



This year, Dan Armstrong and Jane Watts were ably assisted by our newest member of Music Staff, Matt Howell and by alumnus-now-technical wizard, Caleb Horne. They worked their socks off too!

The PTFA team was steered magnificently by the incomparable Karen Mason, whose final school event as Chair this was. A presentation was made to Karen by Mr Burke – and this included a blue plaque in her honour, which now is proudly situated on the PTFA cupboard door! Thank you, Karen, for everything!

The Finale this year were rousing versions from performers and crowd together of Hey Jude and Livin' on a Prayer – Perhaps we should have sung even louder in preparation for a certain match in Berlin...!

Recordings

We have been busy making high quality audio recordings and videos of a number of student performances. Look out for links to these on our Balcarras Music channel and on social media. They are going to be phenomenal!

House Music

This will be taking place very soon after we return in September, so now's the time to get thinking about what you might like to play/sing! As always, this will be a 6thForm-led event, so get planning!

Musical Dates for your diary

The carol concert this year is at **7pm on Wednesday 4th December at Holy Apostles Church, Charlton Kings.**

And the following week, there will be four performances of the school Production (announcement as to what it is imminent!), which will run from **Tuesday 10th – Friday 13th**

December inclusive. (Yes, we've noticed the date of the final night!)

Exam successes follow! Congratulations to all these students and their teachers:

Mr S. Browning: Guitar & Bass Guitar

LCM Acoustic Guitar

William Gavin	Y12	Grade 6 Distinction,
Zoe Thomas Friend	Y11	Grade 5 Distinction
Luca Borrás-White	Y11	Grade 4 Distinction
Amelie Wilson	Y10	Grade 3 Distinction
James Lawrence	Y8	Grade 1 Distinction

Trinity Rock and Pop Guitar

Alex Davies	Y10	Grade 5 Distinction
Isaac Eaton	Y10	Grade 2 Pass

Rockschool Bass Guitar

Joe Dutton	Y12	Grade 6 Merit
Barney Vacher	Y12	Grade 6 Merit

Mrs V. Burge: Cello Exams

Verity Cadogan	Y11	Grade 6 Merit (Trinity)
Rose Hanfrey	Y9	Grade 6 Merit (ABRSM)
Leon Northup	Y12	Grade 5 Pass (ABRSM)
Eloise Pleasant	Y7	Grade 2 Pass (ABRSM)

Mrs J. Haslam: Violin Exams

Grade 3 ABRSM

Hazel Chan	Y10	Merit
Stanley Moore	Y8	Pass

Grade 4 ABRSM

Alex Joice	Y8	Merit
Rosie Atkins	Y8	Pass

Mrs N. Shorland: Flute Exams

Ellie Heppenstall	Y8	Bronze Music Medal - Pass
Rebecca Ellis	Y7	Grade 3 Distinction (ABRSM)
Isabelle Sweetlove	Y7	Grade 1 Merit (ABRSM)

Mrs K. Sykes: Saxophone Exams

Noah Adkins Y8 Grade 3 Soprano Sax - Pass (Trinity)

Mrs T. Vacher: Piano Exams

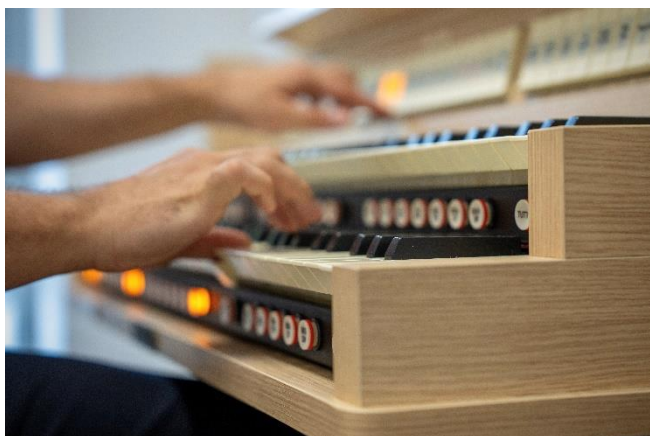
Eddie Atkins Y10 Grade 3 Merit (Trinity)

Phoebe Campbell Y7 Grade 4 Pass (MTB)

Emily Moriarty Y7 Grade 3 Pass (MTB)

Catherine Mather Y10 Grade 1 Pass (MTB)

And finally..!



We're all very excited to announce we have three new additions to the Department! Firstly, a beautiful accordion and a wonderful Yamaha keyboard, kindly donated by some generous Charlton Kings friends of the school. And, hot off the press (!), a fabulous brand new two-manual Viscount organ (complete with pedal board) which has been given to us by the Royal College of Organists. Mr Howell was instrumental (!) in making this happen and we are immensely grateful to the RCO and Simon Williams for giving our students this wonderful opportunity. We've all been queuing up to try it out. Look out for an exciting concert with it later in the year... Have a great summer, everyone!

CAREERS

VICKY BULL, CAREERS LEAD

Last week saw all of year 10 on placements for work experience, and what a week it was. From costume design, to engineering, to farm animals, the week had it all. It has been wonderful to receive so many positive comments from companies and staff about the great impact that Year 10 have had on their week. Pupils have been full of the experience too, with many positive tales and also some job offers. It is a huge task to organise the week and coordinate visits for them all. I would like to thank all the staff that helped with this as well as parents, but particular thanks to Mrs Lewis for all her work behind the scenes to make this event happen.

DOFE - BRONZE

VICKY BULL

The year continues to be a success for DofE with Year 10 completing expeditions in June and now many finishing their Bronze Award, whilst last week saw 28 year 12's on Gold in the Peaks. As I look to my own next adventure, I would just like to thank everyone that has been part of the DofE in school over the time I have managed the Award here at Balcarras. I have so many great memories of young people pushing themselves out of their comfort zone to achieve the Award and would like to publicly thank families, staff and the wider community that have supported the programme to enable the success of young people. It has truly been a privilege to be part of something special here since 2001! Long may it continue.

DOFE - GOLD
JEREMY NIBLETT



This looks like a grainy old photo, but actually it is the Team known as the 'Ostriches' standing triumphantly in the mist on highest point of Kinder Scout. They were among 28 of our year 12 students who took on the rain and the mud while successfully completing an epic 4 day expedition. Both Ed and Charlie chose to test how deep the bog was, and they found that it came roughly up to their armpits! Congratulations to the Ants, the Elephants, the GOATs, the Ostriches and the Sloths. They were all marvellous.

BRITISH SCHOOLS NATIONAL HILL CLIMB CHAMPIONSHIPS
HEIDI ROSCOE



Heidi represented Balcarras at the British Schools National Hill Climb Championships on Saturday 21st June. She won her race.

The event was held at Ditcham Park School on the south coast with races in many age categories. Here's a photo and a snip of her entry and time representing Balcarras.

Many congrats to Heidi!

1	Girls Under 15	26	Heidi Roscoe	Balcarras Academy, Cheltenham	0:8:32
2	Girls Under 15	25	Isla Pattinson	Ditcham Park School	0:8:37
3	Girls Under 15	22	Isla Hoult	Thornden School, Chandlers Ford	0:8:51

KS3 DRAMA CLUB HANNAH WENT, TEACHER OF DRAMA

On the 9th of July, members of our KS3 drama club welcomed Year 5 students from Charlton Kings Junior School to watch a performance of our own play, *The Headteacher and the Time Machine*. The group of 25 students have been rehearsing at lunchtime and afterschool to prepare their performance and they were all absolutely brilliant. Year 5 have responded by sending us ideas for the sequel! Well done drama club.



BERLIN 2024
SIXTH FORM TEAM

Last week saw our inaugural Sixth Form cultural visit to Berlin. Having not been able to do our usual Year 10 visit to Berlin due to a global pandemic, we thought that it would be good to give students the opportunity to visit this culturally rich and diverse city, and to spread the content away from a purely history focus to reflect the fact that we had students from a wide range of subjects joining us.

A 4:30 departure from Balcarras saw us witness a beautiful sunrise along the Windrush valley. The students were in great spirits, and this continued for the entirety of our visit. We arrived at a very busy Terminal 5 at Heathrow, and the students remained calm and patient as we got through to departures. Our British Airways flight got us in in good time, and we found ourselves in a balmy city, ready for a boat trip and a nourishing German meal. Our Hostel had been spruced up a fair bit since my last visit five years ago – although with average temperatures of 26-30 each day, some air conditioning would have been nice.

The following day we took a 3 hour walking tour taking in many of the famous sights of the city. Our tour guides were a lot of fun, and the students asked some terrific questions. Our tour gave way to a stroll (some would argue it was more of a route march) to the Hamburger Bahnhof contemporary art gallery. I was guarding the bags, so didn't get to see the exhibitions, but from what I hear, they were certainly very conceptual and the students had myriad interpretations on their departure. Our excellent student guide Loz, with his encyclopaedic knowledge of the public transport system, guided us home to the hostel safely, via a visit to Berlin Hauptbahnhof. With the heat of the afternoon sun, we took a cooling dip in one of the local open air swimming pools, and then got ready for dinner at an excellent Italian restaurant near the longest remaining stretch of the Berlin Wall. The pizza was perhaps the largest I've seen, and the students all ate very well in a super environment.

Wednesday we used a local coach company to tour some of the sights outside of the centre. Our first stop was Platform 17 at the Grunewald train station. This delightful, wealthy Berlin suburb was the departure destination for thousands of forcibly displaced Jewish Berliners who were taken to camps or ghettos in the East. The students were able to see the memorial to these people and to have some time for reflection. We then went on to Wannsee, a charming lake district still within the Berlin city limits. It was here that senior Nazi officers gathered in a house on the lake in 1942 to discuss the logistics and implementation of the Final Solution to the Jewish Question – namely the mass genocide of the Jewish population of Nazi occupied Europe. Mr Leatherbarrow expertly guided us through a greater understanding of the context and events leading up to this, and the students were struck by the juxtaposition of the beauty of the setting and the hideous hate crimes that went on within. From here we went to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp.

Our return to the city went smoothly, and we approached via the Western suburbs and the Mitte district to get back to the hostel. We walked to dinner at Amrit restaurant, where students and staff dined on excellent food. We were placed in an area of the restaurant with a large screen, as England were taking on the Netherlands in the Euro Semi-Finals. First half at the restaurant, second half at the fan-zone in front of the Brandenburg gate ensured for an evening the students will not forget in a hurry. Mr Boughton made the anticipation even greater by taking us on the scenic route to the fanzone. This was a match that England won – thank goodness!

Thursday was a day of some more city sights, and a visit to the Stasi Prison in former East Berlin. As an alumni of previous Berlin visits, I'd seen the previous sights, but this was a new one for me, and what an experience it was. The group that I was with were toured around by an ex prisoner – incarcerated for posting literature which encouraged people to think for themselves. His parting line will stay with me – "Those who sleep in a democracy wake up in a dictatorship".

We gave the students freedom to find dinner by themselves on our final night, and they went to a variety of different places within the Hackescher Market area of the city. We did give the students the option of joining us for dinner, but surprisingly, none took us up on it.

Friday saw us depart the hostel at 11 for the journey back home. Our steward said that the students were the best group she'd ever had on a flight. This was the feeling of the staff throughout this extended visit. The student's behaviour was exemplary. They grew in knowledge, resilience, team skills and friendship as the week went on. It was a genuine privilege to be with them.

Huge thanks to the staff who came on this visit – shepherding 55 students around a capital city takes some work, but the staff made it look like a walk in the Tiergarten. Their expertise and leadership helped to make the visit go smoothly.

Prost! And here's to more Sixth Form culture in the future.

YEAR 12 WORK SHADOWING

KATRIN TVAPANYAN, YEAR 12

Our Year 12 students have been given a two week period away from their timetable to gain some valuable work shadowing experience. The students have organised this themselves and we wanted to share one of the students experience this week

I went on work experience in the Cardiology department in Gloucester Royal Hospital, more specifically the Cath labs where procedures such as implantation of pacemakers are done. I was there for about 9 hours in total. I was allowed to go into the theatre to watch a pacemaker being replaced up-close, which in my opinion was the best part. For the rest of the day, I was in a small room with 2 cardiac physiologists and 4 screens, each showing important information about the patient's condition. The team were very kind to me and were explaining everything, for example, what I was seeing on the screen, what the team were doing and why are were doing it. I'm extremely grateful for everything I got to experience because it was truly amazing.

SIXTH FORM INDUCTION DAY

SIXTH FORM TEAM

On the morning of Tuesday 2nd July, we welcomed over 300 students to Balcarras Sixth Form for an induction day. The students came from a vast array of locations, from Balcarras to Sri Lanka and Jamaica! The students were welcomed by our Year 12 Leadership Team, who acted as wonderful ambassadors for the morning, before enjoying an assembly from Mr Leatherbarrow, Head of Sixth Form. Each student then participated in a taster lesson for each of the four A Level courses they have selected to study and enjoyed a freshers fair in the Sixth Form Common Room at break time, where they got a chance to view all of the many enrichment opportunities Sixth Form offers.

SIXTH FORM ADMISSIONS

SIXTH FORM TEAM

The Sixth Form team will be in school all-day Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd August for the GCSE results and Sixth Form admissions period. Balcarras students that have applied to Sixth Form will receive a letter with their results which will indicate if they need to meet with a member of the team to discuss their results or simply to confirm their place (which can be done in person on results day or by emailing Mrs Crowley: cc@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk). We wish all students the best of luck with their GCSE results and look forward to welcoming students into Sixth Form on Tuesday 3rd September.

PROM SIXTH FORM TEAM



On the evening of July 2nd, we welcomed over 200 of our Year 13 students to the glamorous Cheltenham Town Hall for their end of school Prom. The beautifully sunny evening commenced with photographs on Imperial Square Gardens, before heading into the Town Hall for a welcome reception in the drawing room. The main hall was stunning in the evening, complete with a glitter ball and beautiful table settings, where we then took our seats and enjoyed a fabulous two course evening meal. Following our meal, Mr Constance, Head of Year 13, together with the student Prom Committee Leaders - Ruby Lockett and Lottie Gorton - led the awards ceremony, as voted for by the students themselves.

Following the awards, the DJ turned up the tunes, fuelled the disco lights and we danced away for the remainder of the evening! The students all looked fantastic and it was a perfect evening to bid them all farewell as they embark on their next exciting chapter.



STEM CONFERENCE DAY

JAMIE LINNELL, COMPUTING



A few weeks ago, two year 9 students took part in a Girls In STEM conference day at the spectacularly cool GCHQ. The day was filled with talks from women in lead roles within GCHQ spanning across many different fields of STEM. They also took part in some programming tasks and Q&A sessions to get to know the many employees that were with us on the day. We even managed to have a chat with the new GCHQ Director during our tour of the museum!! A wonderful day out that was an inspiration to us all. Sadly, no photos were taken on the day, as all devices had to be handed in on arrival!

CAREERS

JILL LEWIS, CAREERS ADVISOR

At the end of June, a group of year 12 students attended INWED (International Women in Engineering Day) at the Spirax Group. It was a fantastic event and the students listened to a brilliant guest speaker [Ceri Moyers](#) from [Mentoring Circle](#); some real food for thought. We then had a panel Q&A and discussion, brilliantly facilitated one of Spirax's Global Graduates in her first year of the programme.



SPORTS NEWS

MARK HARVEY, HEAD OF PE

Congratulations to Frankie O'Leary, Year 11, who was selected and played for the Gloucestershire School Under 16 boys Football Team. The team won the South West Counties League, finishing unbeaten in that competition. He played in every game with fixtures against Oxford, Berkshire, Dorset, Somerset, Hertfordshire and The West Midlands. A fantastic achievement Frankie, well done and good luck going forward with your football next year.

Following on from our best ever District Athletics Team results this year, several of our students went on to compete at County and Regional competitions. Many congratulations to the following athletes who made it through to represent the County at the National Athletics Championships held at Birmingham's Commonwealth Games Stadium.

Isaac Henderson who finished 2nd in the Senior Boys 3000m in a time of 8mins 29.77. Good luck to Isaac as he goes on to continue his running in America next year. Olivia Avery Junior Girls 1500m 4mins 39.35, Patrick Paul Junior Boys 1500m 4mins 25.55 and George Iddon Junior Boys Discus 34.13m.

Well done to all of the Balcarras Athletes who have represented the school this year.

In their final game of the season, the Year 7 cricket team beat Tewkesbury school by 17 runs. They played with a magnificent team spirit, as they have done all year. But this time one of the boys, Charlie England achieved a truly remarkable feat: he took 4 wickets including a hat trick without conceding a single run.



Year 8 district cricket winners!



Congratulations to the Year 8 boys cricket team who are winners of a thrilling final against the High School Leckhampton. A special mention to Theo Uthup who scored 7 runs in the last 2 balls to win the game by 1 run. Well done to you all!

ACTIVITIES WEEK

Year 9 Camp

During activities week the year 9's travelled to Viney Hill (near Lydney) in the Forest of Dean and stayed at a self-catering centre.

During the week, pupils had the opportunity to experience:

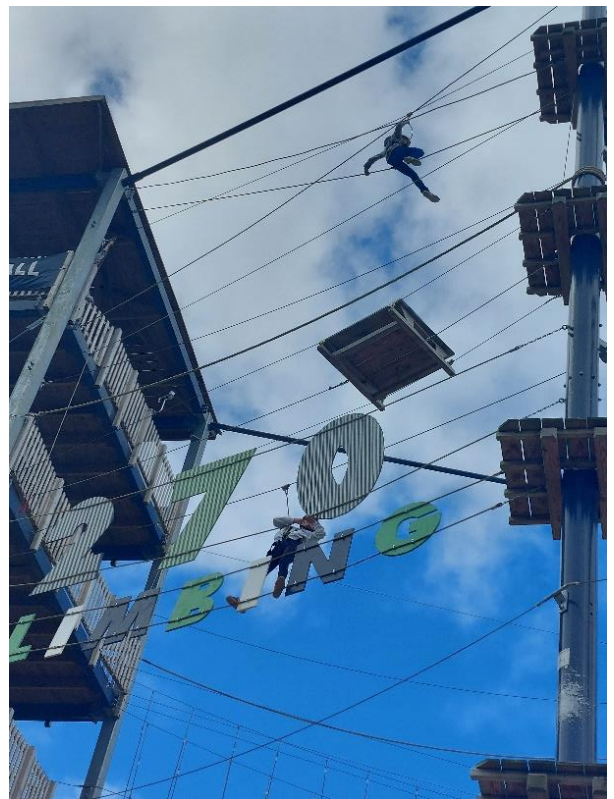
- Mountain-Biking
- Canoeing on Mallards Pike Lake
- 'High-Ropes' with "Go Ape" near Mallards Pike
- Hiking
- Archery
- An Introduction to Bush Craft
- Abseiling
- Leap of Faith/Gladiator Challenge



In the evenings pupils took part in various activities focusing on team building/leadership skills and also watched England win against the Netherlands, before relaxing in front of the campfire with their hot chocolate and biscuits. It was a brilliant week, and the pupils should be proud of themselves!

Thank you to all the staff that made the week so enjoyable.





NEWSLETTER



The newsletter will now be distributed by email and available to view on our VLE (Firefly) as well as on the school website.

It is incredibly easy and will save the school a lot of paper and the planet a lot of trees!

If you would still prefer a hard copy, please contact Karen Adkins
ksa@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

Follow us on X (formerly Twitter) @balcarras and Facebook, Facebook.com/BalcarrasSchool for updates and news about school life and events.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dominic Burke', with a horizontal line underneath.

Headteacher



VACANCIES

All vacancies are advertised on the Balcarras Trust website:

<https://www.thebaccarrastrust.co.uk>

We will also be advertising a vacancy for a Careers Administrator shortly, please bookmark this page!



Teaching Assistant (Qualified or Unqualified)

To start as soon as possible after successful interview

Unqualified Grade 3-4 £13,435.08 actual salary (FTE £22,737)

Qualified Grade 6-8 £14,118.15 actual salary (FTE £23,893)

5 hours per day, Monday to Friday (9am - 3.35 pm), Term-time only + 5 INSETS
There may be an opportunity to take on additional paid duties at break and/or lunch time.

Part-time applications will be considered.

Balcarras School, part of the Balcarras Trust is looking to appoint an enthusiastic teaching assistant to join our excellent team.

You will work in a large team supporting our children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Full training will be given to the right applicant and relevant experience / qualifications to carry out the role will be considered.

You will assist in the educational and social development of young people at an important stage in their lives. You must have a caring demeanour, good communication skills, and be able to work flexibly with fellow professionals to support the inclusion of pupils with special educational needs, including students with physical disabilities.

Ofsted assessed Balcarras in 2005, 2009 and 2014 as "Outstanding" in every category.

Application

Further information including a job description can be found in the Applicant Pack www.thebaccarrastrust.co.uk. To apply, please complete an application form and send completed application forms to jobs@baccarras.gloucs.sch.uk

Closing Date for applications: Friday 6th September 2024, 9am

Interviews to follow shortly after.

For further information about the post, please contact the school at the above e-mail address.

The Balcarras Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This role will involve regulated activity with children. We particularly welcome applications from underrepresented groups including ethnicity, gender, transgender, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion. Please also read the Recruitment Selection and Disclosure Policy within "How to apply" which includes our policy on recruiting ex-offenders. All posts are subject to an enhanced DBS check and receipt of two satisfactory references.



Sports Coach & Cover Supervisor

Required to start as soon as possible after successful interview.

5 days per week, full time, term time only

8.30 am - 3.45 pm - Monday to Friday

1 INSET day in September

Salary: Point 12 - 14 actual salary: £22,700.28 - £23,484.71

FTE £26,421- £27,334

The Balcarras Trust are looking to appoint an excellent Sports Coach and Cover Supervisor. The role will be to coach and oversee the fixtures for two weekly extra curricular sports clubs at the school to a high standard. Additionally, the role will be to cover lessons across the school whenever a teacher is absent as directed by the cover manager or senior teacher in charge of cover. Class cover will involve implementing work programmes, managing pupil behaviour and assisting pupils in the relevant activities in line with the schools policies and procedures.

Please see the Applicant Pack for further information including a Job Description on the Balcarras Trust website www.thebaccarrastrust.co.uk

Application

To apply, please send completed application forms to jobs@baccarras.gloucs.sch.uk

Closing Date for applications: Friday 13th September 2024, 9am

Interviews to follow shortly afterwards.

For further information about the post, please contact the school at the above email address.

The Balcarras Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This role will involve regulated activity with children. We particularly welcome applications from underrepresented groups including ethnicity, gender, transgender, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion. Please also read the Recruitment Selection and Disclosure Policy within "How to apply" which includes our policy on recruiting ex-offenders. All posts are subject to an enhanced DBS check and receipt of two satisfactory references.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Boys - Give Summer Rugby a Try at Old Pats RFC

There are touch rugby sessions running for boys throughout the summer at Old Patesians RFC at Everest Road, and everyone is welcome to come along and give it a try.



OLD PATESIANS RFC

TRY RUGBY AT OLD PATS RFC

ALL PLAYERS WELCOME
NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
HIGH-QUALITY TRAINED COACHES
HAVE FUN AND MAKE FRIENDS

NON-CONTACT SKILLS AND GAMES
FREE SUMMER SESSIONS

GIVE IT A TRY!

GET IN CONTACT
✉ JUNIORS@OLDPATS.CO.UK

EVERY TUESDAY 6-7PM
IN JULY & AUGUST
AT OLD PATS RFC

OLD PATESIANS RFC
EVEREST RD
LEGNHAMPTON
GL53 9LG

The sessions are free to join, non-contact and all about having fun with your friends. They run from 6 until 7pm, and the clubhouse and bar will be open for parents to get to know other parents and the coaches.

Please contact juniors@oldpats.co.uk if you'd like to come along.

Girls - New Girls Rugby section at Old Pats RFC

September sees Old Pats starting a girls rugby section, with age groups for U12's to U18's with free taster sessions so please come along and give it a go. The focus will be enjoyment, learning core skills and getting to know new people as we develop our girls teams together.

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If you would like to find out more, please register your interest using this link and we will be in touch:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhq_2iyZhtDgg1Zhlzoa_SAajaBBX3ZcchfpjidaXLRJtCMw/view_form

**Opportunity to lead school governance**

We are keen to support local schools and therefore want to let our parent body know that Benhall Infant School in Cheltenham is seeking a Chair of Governors. This is an exciting opportunity to help shape the strategic vision of an excellent school. For more information, please contact: chair@benhall.gloucs.sch.uk

ULTIMATE ACTIVITY CAMPS

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GET SET FOR ULTIMATE HOLIDAY FUN!

Exceptional activity day camps for 4 to 14 year olds during the summer at

DEAN CLOSE SCHOOL

IN CHELTENHAM

Monday - Friday
8am to 6pm

ULTIMATEACTIVITY.CO.UK

FRESH AIR FUN

REFER A FRIEND

EARN A FREE DAY

DANCE WORKSHOPS

3RD AUGUST

SUMMER DANCE INTENSIVE
AGES 13+

SUMMER DANCE DAY
AGES 7-12

10 - 2PM

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