



BALCARRAS
From strength to strength

NEWSLETTER

Welcome from the Headteacher

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Balcarras newsletter. In addition to these newsletters please do also be aware that I publish a weekly update about life in the school on a Friday.

A recurring theme of those updates is how fast time seems to be going—we have raced to October half term. There has been a very positive atmosphere in the school. I spend a lot of time walking the school particularly at lunchtime—our pupils are a real delight to talk to and to be around.

We are now in a position to benchmark the results in the summer both at GCSE and A-level. In short we were delighted with both and really happy that the vast majority of pupils gained access to their preferred next step, both at post 16 and post 18. At GCSE our results were in the top 10% of all schools for progress nationally. Locally we were the highest performing comprehensive school in Gloucestershire, both in terms of average points score per entry and 5+ in English and maths. I was genuinely very pleased about this. At A level we achieved 69% A* to B and our results were in the top 25% of all schools nationally for progress. Once again, my congratulations to all of the pupils who sat external examinations.

Keep up to date on all our news:

WWW.BALCARRAS.GLOUCS.SCH.UK

Another theme of my updates has been the release of our wonderful new music videos. If you haven't seen them yet then please look at the Balcarras Music site here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@balcarrasmusic495>

They are amazing. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Finally from me...we are relaunching the Balcarras Gift Aid Scheme. From now on it will be known as the Balcarras\$ Plan. Keep reading for more details....

I hope you all have a nice half term, I'm looking forward to a rest.

Supporting your Child's Education for a Dollar a week.



Background: As many of you will be aware, our school has been on a wonderful journey over the last few decades, helping so many young people to achieve their dreams. We have been recognised as 'The Sunday Times Southwest State School of the Decade' as well as an Ofsted 'Outstanding School'. We are proud to be a state comprehensive school and offer the widest possible opportunities to all. Nevertheless, state education funding alone does not enable us to provide all the benefits that we believe we should provide for your child.

The Balcarras\$ Plan: You doubtless receive many requests for money, however, we hope this one may be a little different. We would like you to consider whether you could contribute \$1 per day (that's about 75p), whilst your child is a member of our school. That equates to £3.75 a week and £15 per month (based on a five-day school week) – around the price of a posh cup of coffee a week! You may ask what possible difference that will make. Given the large number of families in our school community, if 500 families were willing to contribute a cup of coffee a week, that would raise £90,000 each year. Remarkable! We already receive donations from many families – we remain grateful for those donations, thank you.

What will the money be spent on? We want to make it clear that the money contributed will not be used to pay for basic school running costs. It will be used to provide advantages for your child beyond those which we could afford to provide using government funding alone. But as real terms government funding falls, we are finding it tough to keep up with things we used to take for granted. To give a few specific examples:

- In recent years we have spent money on the school grounds, making sure that they are beautiful, stimulating spaces which enhance the wellbeing of all who use them.
- We have also been able to upgrade classroom spaces, notably making a new DT room and kitting out our new music block.

- We continue to invest in our IT estate making sure that we are not using worn out computers
- We use the contributions to pay for the school minibuses

Providing such excellent facilities is a challenge in the current school funding environment and we would love to be able to keep improving. This plan will only work through scale. We appreciate that not all families can afford this, and we fully acknowledge and respect this; the scheme is of course purely voluntary. But if you do support it then we are confident your support will encourage others to see just what extra can be achieved for your children.

How do I sign up?

If you are keen to support us with our 'Balcarra\$ Plan', there are two ways that you can sign up:

1 – Set up a Standing Order yourself on your online banking

We think this will be the easiest method for most people. Simply set up a Standing Order using the following details:

School Bank:	Lloyds Bank
Account Name:	Balcarras Opportunities Account
Sort code:	30-91-87
Account number:	14471463
Payment amount:	£15 (or any other amount you choose)
Frequency:	Monthly
First payment date:	<i>Preferred date in October 2025</i>
Quote reference:	<i>Provide your full name</i>

2 – Complete this [Standing Order form](#) or see below. If you would like us to claim an additional 25% on your donations using the government's 'Gift Aid' scheme then please use this form. Send the form to the school reception desk or to a form tutor.

As soon as the first payment has been made, you will receive correspondence from the school to thank you for your support.

The information on this form will be **confidential**. Please return it via a form tutor/reception.

First Name:	Last Name:
Full Address:	
Name(s) of child/children at Balcarras	

☒ Please treat all qualifying gifts of money as Gift Aid donations.

Amount	£15.00 ☐	£25.00 ☐	£50.00 ☐	£100.00 ☐	Other (Please specify amount)
Timing	Monthly ☒	Starting from ____ / ____ / ____			To last ____ years

I would be interested in helping with a one off capital purchase please contact me

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of gift aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay the difference. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity can reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

I am / am not a taxpayer (please delete as applicable)	Signed
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Unless you prefer to pay by cheque or cash, could you please complete your bank details in the Standing Order form and return to Balcarras School – we will do all the rest.
 MANY THANKS!

N.B. If you already contribute to the scheme, this new commitment will replace your previous one.

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

Please tick:	New Instruction ☐	Amend previous Standing Order ☐
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To (name of your bank)
 Bank Sort Code:
 Account No:
 Account Name:

BENEFICIARY DETAILS

Lloyds Bank
 30-91-87
 14471463
 BALCARRAS OPPORTUNITIES ACCOUNT
 Beneficiary Ref:
 (to be completed by the School)

PAYMENT DETAILS

Amount of payment £	Date of first payment ____ / ____ / ____
Amount in words	Frequency of payment MONTHLY
Date of last payment ____ / ____ / ____ or continue until further notice (please tick) ☐	

Payer signature	Date
Payer contact telephone number (only in case of a query about this form)	

EASYFUNDRAISING

Balcarras School



Just letting you know that Balcarras School are now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment. Scan the QR code to start fundraising!

Thank you so much!

YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY TRIP JON PEARCE, GEOGRAPHY TEACHER

Last week thirty three Year 12 pupils headed down to the Dorset Coast as part of a Geography field trip. The aim of this was to consolidate some of the work done in lessons on their first module on Coasts. The other aim was to give them ideas for their own independent study that they carry out as part of the A level.

The sun was out when we arrived at Lyme Regis, although the tide was in, which meant we couldn't initially get onto the wave cut platform, just one example of the landforms we look at along the coast. Coasts are dynamic environments and there are lots of great examples of erosional and depositional landforms in the UK. The Jurassic coast of Dorset has a large variety of different features due to its Geology and importance for tourism. We had lunch in Lyme Regis after a walk along the famous Cobb harbour wall.

Sadly the pulled pork sandwiches had sold out so not everyone got to try one. Lyme Regis makes a good study for coastal management and one that we use as a case study. It is also where Mary Anning the world famous palaeontologist collected her first dinosaur fossils.

After this first stop we headed to Chesil Beach, Europe's largest Tombolo, a huge depositional barrier beach that links the mainland with the island of Portland. There are apparently 180 billion pebbles on this beach, although we are not sure who counted them. This is a great landform to consider how coasts change over time with shifting currents and sea levels.

From here we headed to Swanage where our hostel was. After tea we went down to the 'Funworld' arcades for our evenings activity.

On our second day we headed to Lulworth Cove, where we looked at the different geology of a concordant coastline and how it allows erosional coves to form. After an ice cream we then took on the walk over to Durdle Door, one of the best examples of an Arch in the UK. We also looked at possible study ideas on Swanage beach, and sampled a range of methods to collect data.

That evening we headed out to Poole to have a go at bowling. Well done to Matt and Tom who scored the highest number of points, they even beat Mr Lane.

Our final day we headed to the Studland Sand Dunes, to look at how they are managed and how they have changed over time. This process of succession has led to some distinct patterns in terms of the biotic and abiotic factors there.

It was a windy and cold day on the beach. Despite this the pupils worked hard and collected some great data. In the summer of year 12 pupils have to collect their own data as part of their NEA. Every year some of the Geographers head back to the Jurassic coast to collect this data. All in all, it was a great few days away and the pupils were a credit to the school.



BIKEABILITY

JON PEARCE, GEOGRAPHY TEACHER

There have been record numbers for the Year 8 Advanced cycling Bikeability course this year. The aim of this course is to help pupils feel safer when cycling on roads. We run this course every year but have never had such positive uptake. There are 92 of the year group signed up to take part in this course, almost half of the year group. The first round of students begins this week, and then we have arranged extra weeks in November and December. If you have signed up then Mr Pearce will be in touch shortly to let you know when your times are. It is a great course with pupils receiving 4 hours of cycle coaching with an instructor and another pupil.

BALCARRAS GOLF TOUR 2025**JEREMY NIBLETT**

Nine of our Year 11 golfers went on an epic golf tour just before October half term. We were lucky enough to play three of the country's most renowned golf courses: Painswick, Saunton East and the oldest course in England, Royal North Devon. We played in all sorts of weather and our students made friends wherever they went, with all three club managers commenting on their excellent behaviour and the high standard of their golf. Sam played out of his skin to win the RND junior open with a round that included an eagle. Leo, Charlie and Barney won particular respect for their courage in the face of adversity and Mr Boughton and I considered ourselves lucky to

have played golf in such wonderful places with such wonderful people. Here is a nice snap of Stan and Leo washing up (they were great!), and of course Sam, the Champion Golfer of the Week addressing his golf ball.

PTFA NEWS

A huge thank you to everyone who came to the Clothes Swap Event, it was a fantastic evening and raised nearly £600. Thank you to the team of volunteers led by Esther Hunter who contributed to the evening!

Upcoming events:

PTFA Meeting	12 th November 2025	7 pm
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Carol Concert	3 rd December 2025	7 pm
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The PTFA will be serving mince pies after the Carol Service.

If you would like to get involved in the PTFA, please do email ptfa@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

YEAR 13 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

LAURA THOMSON

At the start of the term, Year 13 A-Level Environmental Science students attended a residential at Margam Discovery Centre, near Port Talbot, Wales. This was an amazing opportunity for students to collect data through field work investigations and analyse it using a multitude of statistical tests.

Day one the students visited the sand dunes at Swansea University. These are actively managed dunes to prevent them from stabilising and becoming a climax community. The students learnt about how they are managed, the benefits of sand dunes on the natural environment and how they protect coastlines from erosion. At the site they measured the changing biodiversity of species throughout the dunes.

Day two the students carried out rocky shore investigations at Bracelet Bay. They carried out a number of mini-investigations including macro algae species richness and top shell niche identification. That evening the students went bat detecting and set moth traps.



The final day, the students identified the different species of moths and visited local woodlands. They studied both deciduous and coniferous woodlands and measured the carbon up-take of each type of tree. Through their investigations they determined that deciduous woodlands are more effective at reversing climate change.

All students had a great time. The weather in Wales was (mostly) kind to us and they have learnt essential field work skills for their A-level.



CROSS COUNTRY DOMINANCE

PE DEPT

Magnificent Balcarras Dominate District Cross Country Again!

It was another incredible performance by the Balcarras runners as they dominated the District Cross Country Championships held at Ashley Manor. The competition sees schools from across the Cheltenham District compete.

Balcarras won 6 of the 8 races:

Year 7 Girls	1st Balcarras
Year 7 Boys	1st Balcarras
Year 8 and 9 Girls	1st Balcarras
Year 8 and 9 Boys	1st Balcarras

Year 10 and 11 Girls	1st Balcarras
Year 10 and 11 Boys	1st Balcarras
Sixth Form Boys	2nd Balcarras

Well done to everyone who took part.



RUGBY SUCCESS

PE DEPT



Congratulations to Harley Price, Rhys Morris, Sam Terrell, Ben Mason, Jim Wilkinson and Alfie Warburton all in year 11 who attended and were successful at being selected to represent the Cheltenham District U16 rugby squad. It was a tough selection process with over 50 students attempting to be selected. The boys went on to play in Gloucestershire County Festival of Rugby against district teams from Stroud, Forest of Dean and Gloucester. Cheltenham District won all three games and are 2025 County Champions. Well done boys!!

HOCKEY SUCCESS

PE DEPT

The U14s won the County tournament. They have won every County tournament since Year 7 which is a great achievement! They will represent Gloucestershire (along with CLC) at Regionals in the spring term.



SIXTH FORM NEWS

Welcome Y12s

On Tuesday 2nd September, we welcomed 212 students into Year 12. 86 of those students joined Balcarras Sixth Form from other centres, mainly from Gloucestershire schools but we also are delighted to welcome students from further afield, including Denmark and the USA. We work very hard each year to ensure all of our students feel welcome – we organise welcome brunches for the students that didn't attend Balcarras lower school, and we organise an icebreaker where the tutor groups compete against each other in various team building, fun activities. As we near the end of the first half term, our cohort have well and truly settled into Sixth Form life. It's been lovely to see our

Balcarras students navigate from lower school to Sixth Form and integrate with the students that have joined us from other centres, we always say that by October half term we struggle to see who attended Balcarras lower school and who didn't, this is definitely true for this year!

Sixth Form BBQ

Each year whilst the lower school are hiking Timbercombe Hill, we have our own fundraiser – a BBQ. Mr Constance and his team of helpers prepare, cook and serve a delicious BBQ to 450 students! We also enjoyed wonderful music from Mr Armstrong and his talented team of Sixth Form musicians – they even played happy birthday for Mr Rothwell! The money raised will be donated to charity.

International Students

We regularly work with international agencies in Sixth Form, including Inlingua who are based in Cheltenham. This September we were delighted to welcome six students into Year 12. Four students are from Brazil and two are from Japan. The students will stay with us until the end of November and are following a full Year 12 timetable as well as joining in other Sixth Form activities and events. We caught up with the students last week for a coffee and to learn more about the school's and towns they are from.

Y12 Lessons from Auschwitz launch

We recently launched our annual visit to Auschwitz in conjunction with the Holocaust Education Trust. We have been working with the trust for several years, allowing Sixth Form students the unique opportunity to learn about the history of the Holocaust through a bespoke online learning environment, accessing artefacts, text, film, and a one-day Visit to Poland to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum. We are currently reviewing applications from the Year 12 students that have expressed an interest in this project, which will take place next March. For further information, please visit the [Holocaust Education Trust](http://www.holocausteducationtrust.org.uk) website.

Y13 EPQ Marketplace

On Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st October, Sixth Form students had the exciting opportunity to present their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) work at our annual EPQ Presentation Marketplace. The event marked the culmination of months of independent research, critical thinking, and academic writing, as students shared their findings on a diverse range of topics—from medicine and politics to philosophy, engineering, and the arts. These projects not only showcased students' academic passions but also reflected their ability to manage independent research, evaluate sources, and form well-reasoned arguments—skills highly valued by universities and employers.

**Year 13 Post-18**

Our cohort have started off their Year 13 amazingly after a lovely long summer break – as well as their studies and extra-curricular activities, their post-18 planning is well underway. Last week's PSHE morning was fully dedicated to completing their UCAS application forms alongside research for any that are planning to take up an apprenticeship or take a gap year. We have 24 students (10% of the Y13 cohort!) that have completed and submitted an early-entry application for UCAS, of those 18 have applied to Oxbridge universities and 6 are applying for medicine or veterinary courses. We continue to support all of our Y13 students throughout their UCAS, employment or apprenticeship applications and will be organising interview practice for students along with various 1:1 support sessions and drop-in clinics every Thursday. Mrs Lewis continues to be a regular presence in Sixth Form throughout the week with a weekly drop-in clinic and continuing to organise some amazing apprenticeship sessions and sharing opportunities with the students.

Speaker Sessions

Every other week we welcome a guest speaker for our Year 12 students. Last week we were delighted to welcome our alumni student, Jake Blackler. Jake is currently in his second year on a degree apprenticeship at Spirax Sarco and gave a wonderful talk to our students on his journey through Balcarras Sixth Form and his role and responsibilities at Spirax. We continue to welcome parents, alumni and members of the community to come and be a speaker at one of our sessions, if you are at all interested, please contact the Sixth Form Team.

2026 Sixth Form Admissions

Just as we have completed and welcomed our new Year 12 students, and so another admission cycle begins! We are in the process of preparing our new Sixth Form prospectus and planning for our open evening, which will take place on 15th January 2026. We have given an assembly to our Balcarras Y11 students as well as to students at some of our main feeder schools. We have also attended careers fairs at schools in Cirencester, Pittville and Winchcombe. If you or your child have any questions at all about the admissions process for Sixth Form, please don't hesitate to get in touch or visit our [website](https://www.balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk).



**BALCARRAS
SIXTH FORM
2026
ADMISSIONS**





Balcarras Sixth Form 2026 Admissions
Key Dates:
 Thursday 15th January - 6-8pm - open evening
 Friday 16th January - application form live online
 (please follow the QR code)
 Friday 6th February - application deadline
 March/April - consultation meetings
 May - conditional offer letters issued by post
 Tuesday 30th June - induction day
 Thursday 20th August - GCSE results/confirm your place
 Wednesday 2nd September - first day of Y12

Please follow the QR code for further information including our entry requirements and information on the courses we offer.

Contacts:
 dl@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk
 cc@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

 **Balcarras**
 Gloucestershire School

MUSIC NEWS

JANE WATTS & DAN ARMSTRONG

House Music 2025 was truly amazing! The performances from Foley, Graveney, Ottewell and Selvey were remarkable and the attention to detail was impeccable. A special mention must go to the Sixth Form Leaders for organising their House's performances; we were, yet again, taken aback with their level of professionalism throughout rehearsals, all the way through to the final performance, and the Sixth Formers certainly deserve recognition for the level of organisation, time and effort gone into this process.

This year featured almost all live music, with only 2 backing tracks used across the 24 performances. Students of all ages played a crucial role, from accompanying soloists, to fulfilling a live band for the House Choirs – a testament to their musical prowess.

The adjudicating was a rigorous procedure and was especially difficult to determine a clear winner until the very end of the performances, so close in fact that there was only 0.3 marks between first and second place, and 0.8 marks between first and third place! Selvey did incredibly well to win the competition and uphold the title, but the Highlights Concert was especially impressive with all four houses performing together and celebrating the musical talent we have here at Balcarras.

We thoroughly enjoyed listening to the students and are looking forward to House Music 2026!



PARKING & POLICIES

NEIL BAXTER, DEPUTY HEADTEACHER

Some of our local residents have been in contact with the school and requested for parents to please park considerately when dropping off and collecting pupils. Traffic in Charlton Kings is quite tricky at the moment, with the closure of the A40, and anything you can do to help maintain a clear route would be very much appreciated by those living near to the school.

As this is the first newsletter of the year, it seems a good time to remind parents of the school policies. These can be found on the school website:

Our School

Policies

The school policies are designed to give parents an understanding of how the school operates and the expectations the school has for all the pupils. In particular the policies on

Behaviour Drugs

Bullying Child Protection/Safeguarding

Attendance Single Equalities

might be of interest for parents to read. Some parents might find the other policies useful to read and understand.

We hope that all our expectations are by-and-large common sense: work hard, act nicely to other people and behave well and you will find your time at Balcarras enjoyable and successful.

CHELTENHAM HALF MARATHON & SPONSORED WALK

The school Sponsored walk was a success this year.

On Friday 19th September, the entire school took part in our much-loved annual sponsored walk through the stunning Cotswold countryside. Nearly 1,000 students and more than 100 staff joined in the event—with a few daring participants even running the challenging route! If you've experienced the course before, you'll know just how steep it can be.

We were lucky to enjoy fantastic weather on the day, which made the event even more memorable.



Thanks to everyone's efforts, including additional donations from the Cheltenham Half Marathon, we're proud to announce that we raised over £15,000 for Sue Ryder!

We are delighted to say that by combining the amount raised by staff who took part in the Half Marathon, along with the amount raised by students for the sponsored walk, as a community we have raised over £15,000 for Sue Ryder Leckhampton Hospice. Over £7000 was raised by the students as a result of the sponsored walk. A huge thanks to all who have made this possible.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN TEACHING?



**JOIN US
FOR OUR SCITT
SECONDARY TEACHER
TASTER DAY**



Tuesday 18 November 2025 - 08:45am - 2:00pm
Balcarras School, East End Road, Charlton Kings,
Cheltenham, Glos GL53 8QF

About Our Event

Are you considering a career in teaching? Don't miss our Teacher Taster Day—an inspiring and informative event designed to help you take your first steps into this rewarding profession.

Whether you're ready to apply or just beginning to explore your options, this event is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about teaching and how to start your journey.

**DON'T WAIT - REGISTER
TODAY!**



To reserve your place, please email
teachertraining@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

Event Highlights

- **Meet the experts**
Gain insights from current teachers, trainees, and training managers.
- **Explore Teacher Training Options**
Discover pathways into teaching and how to apply.
- **Real-Life Insights**
Talk to teachers about life in the classroom and hear firsthand experiences from current trainees.

CYBER CAREERS FAIR - GLOUCESTER

STEPHEN COOPER, HEAD OF COMPUTING

On 14th October, fifteen of our Year 8 and 9 girls attended the CyNam EmPower Cyber Careers Fair in Gloucester, an inspiring event showcasing the exciting world of cyber security. The students met with a wide range of professionals, from local ethical hackers to international developers working on cutting-edge cyber security hardware and software. Our girls were fantastic ambassadors for the school—curious, engaged, and full of great questions throughout the day. It was a brilliant opportunity to explore future career pathways in one of the UK's fastest-growing industries.

MODEL CLUB

MIKE STOKER, HEAD OF HISTORY

Our Model Club is going from strength to strength, with membership now up to 21 enthusiastic and very talented students. With this surge in interest, we're finding ourselves in need of extra resources to keep up with demand!

We are always grateful for the kind support we receive from the PTFA (our next bid is still to be submitted!), but with so many new members we would greatly appreciate any spare model materials you might be able to donate — whether that's glue, kits, or paints.

If you have anything to contribute, please drop materials at Reception. For any questions or to arrange drop off please email mks@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk.

Thank you for helping our students continue to build, create, and enjoy!



BALCARRAS CAREERS FAIR – OCTOBER 2025

JILL LEWIS, CAREERS

On 2nd October the annual Balcarras careers fair took place it was a very busy event with over 60 exhibitors and four presentations throughout the evening. We have received some fantastic feedback from the exhibitors, parents and students.

Thank you for having us at your Careers Fair yesterday. I thoroughly enjoyed attending and had some meaningful interactions with your students which was lovely to see!

Megan Wigley, Schools and Colleges Engagement Officer, Bath Spa University

My daughter attended the careers fair and she said it was 'amazing'. She was very inspired by the event - especially all the information about following a career in law - Year 10 Parent

Thanks very much for yesterday, always enjoy my visits here! A gorgeous woofer on the entrance door (and a cat wondering about this time too, ha!) I had some great conversations with students and parents who have themselves studied or siblings who have studied/are currently studying with us is always great.

Best wishes,

Ben, University of Swansea

I wanted to thank you for having The Music Works attend yesterday, I had some really productive conversations.

Best wishes

Claire Brown – Marketing & Engagement Manager

If you would like to support future career events please contact us at careers@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

Thank you



CHESS CLUB

PAUL GODFREY, SCIENCE TEACHER

During October we ran interhouse chess competitions at Balcarras for the first time!

Year 7 and 8 played each other in the first week (Graveney won)

Year 9 and 10 played each other in the second week (Foley won)

Year 11 played 6th form in the final week (Y11 Foley won)

Trophies that have been 3D printed by the DT team will be presented in assemblies next term!

These competitions were to help us identify talent so we can take two chess teams to play in Bristol against other schools at the beginning of November. We had a strong team last year and are hoping to nurture the chess talent we have in the school.

Year 7

Years 9 and 10

Year 11 play 6th form

Chess trophies by DT department!



PADEL SUCCESS

ETHAN HOLT



Ethan is currently #4 in the UK in his age group and managed to win the East Glos Padel Mixed Doubles Club Championships with Petra Ratajova, a summer long tournament, the final being held a few weeks ago. This achievement gets him immortalised on a board in the East Glos clubhouse, and name engraved on the cup! He beat international squash player, padel coach, and highly ranked padel player Jack Bloomfield (playing with his mum Sally, also a strong padel player) in a close final.

Ethan was ranked #4 on the list to go to the world cup in his age group, but as there was a qualifying stage for GB prior to the main draw, they decided to only take 3 for budgetary reasons, so he just missed out. Hopefully he'll be able to make the next one in 2 years time!

ACTIVITIES WEEK – 8TH – 10TH JULY 2026

LYN MASSEY

It is that time again...but not quite yet! However, there will be lots of things to choose from coming your way. For now, there are lots of information been given out regarding trips etc., and also our London Theatre trips this Year which are to see Hercules and Wicked.

These theatre trips will become available to pay a non-refundable deposit for on Scopay soon.

Please remember when doing this, of the other great things there will be to offer.

For any further information please email: ljm@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk



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,

Headteacher



The
Balcarras
Trust



Balcarras
From strength to strength

Teacher of RE - Maternity Contract

Fixed term maternity Contract 23rd Feb 2026 – 19th Feb 27.

0.8 Contract with a day off per week

(Week 1 Wednesday and Week 2 Thursday).

We are looking for an inspirational teacher who will contribute to our future success of our highly successful RE department. We are looking for a part-time teacher of RE for one year, to cover a maternity to join our RE department.

The successful candidates will teach RE at Key Stage 3 & 4.
 Ofsted assessed Balcarras in 2005, 2009, 2014 and 2025 as
 'Outstanding' in every category.

Applications from both ECTs and experienced teachers are welcome.
 Excellent induction and further professional development available.
 Please read the letter to applicants and the applicant pack for further information.
www.thebaltarrastrust.co.uk

Application

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

Closing Date for applications: Wednesday 5th November 2025, 9am.

Interviews will take place shortly afterwards.

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.

ORGANISED AND FUNDED BY

Charlton Kings Parish Council

October Youth Programme

25 - 31 OCT

SATURDAY 25

YOGA with Helena

🕒 2.15 - 3.15pm

📍 Stanton Hall

👥 Girls 12 - 18 yrs

NO SIGN UP REQUIRED

BASKETBALL with JAM

🕒 5.00 - 6.30pm

📍 MUGA/Grange Field

👥 12 - 18 yrs

NO SIGN UP REQUIRED

THURSDAY 30

E- SPORTS, Mini Game Challenges

🕒 10.00 - 12.00

📍 Stanton Hall

👥 7 - 10yrs

MONDAY 27

FOOTBALL with Cheltenham Town Community Trust

🕒 10.00 - 12.00pm

📍 Grange Field

👥 8 - 12yrs

DRAMA WORKSHOP with KAM Performing Arts (Narnia)

🕒 10.00 - 10.45pm

📍 Stanton Hall

👥 8 - 12yrs

JUNK WORKSHOP with World Jungle

🕒 1.00 - 3.00pm

📍 Stanton Hall

👥 8 - 13yrs

TUESDAY 28

FOOTBALL with Cheltenham Town Community Trust

🕒 10.00 - 12.00pm

📍 Grange Field

👥 8 - 12yrs

HENNA WORKSHOP with World Jungle

🕒 11.00 - 1.00

📍 Kings Hall

👥 12yrs +

FRIDAY 31

DRAMA WORKSHOP with KAM Performing Arts (Hogwarts)

🕒 10.00 - 10.45pm

📍 Stanton Hall

👥 8 - 12yrs



SCAN TO BOOK TICKETS