



## BALCARRAS SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

A warm welcome to the latest Balcarras newsletter. It is at last warming up and it looks like we'll have glorious weather for sports day this week. That's good in one way but I fear it might end up being a little too good. Do make sure your child has some sunscreen and a sunhat for Thursday. Parents are very welcome to join us for the event. Please go straight to the back of the school and join us on the field from 1.15pm. If you are lucky, you might even get an ice cream!

The following week we have Midsummer Music which will be held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Doors open at 6pm. This year's event is being used as a grand fundraiser for our piano campaign. The main grand piano in the hall needs replacing and we have set up a campaign to raise £15,000. You will shortly receive a letter explaining how you can get involved.

I would like to congratulate the 110 students in Year 10 who completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition in challenging conditions this weekend. They coped with almost everything that the elements could throw at them: heat, thunder, humidity, torrential downpours and lightening. I would like to thank all those staff who gave up their weekends to facilitate this wonderful opportunity. As ever, a particular thank you to Mrs Bull.

It has been great to observe so much extra-curricular activity going on in the school. I had the pleasure of watching our Year 10 boys football team win the District Cup beating Prince Henry's 2-0 in the final a couple of weeks ago. Almost every night there are fixtures taking place after school. I would like to wish the Balcarras Golf team all the best for the National Schools Golf Championships at Woodhall Spa in July.

Another highlight to look forward to is the House Dance competition which takes place on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June. Please do come along to the highlights concert on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm.

We are almost through the exam season now. I would like to congratulate our Year 11 and Year 13 on their superb behaviour throughout. I would also like to thank Mrs Harris and her team for their excellent work in organising the exams this year.

### OFSTED inspection into GITEP SCITT

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May we had OFSTED at Balcarras inspecting the Gloucestershire Initial Teacher Education Partnership (GITEP). GITEP is a school centered initial teacher training partnership with Balcarras as the lead school. GITEP trains around 60 teachers every year and a number of our existing staff trained through GITEP. The inspector spent a day with us and was hugely impressed by our offer for teacher training and by the atmosphere in the school. The result of the inspection is confidential for now. When the report is released, I will share it with you.

### Sports Day

Parents and guardians are welcome to attend Sports Day. Please arrive at 1.15 pm and go straight to the field (at the back of school) where you will be shown to a seating area near the finish line of the outside of the track.

Pupils should have sun hats and have applied sun cream before arriving in school. This week is going to be very warm. Please remind pupils to bring refillable water bottles into school.

Please do not arrive via school reception.

### Blazers

Due to the hot weather, pupils do NOT need to wear their blazers in school from today (Mon 12<sup>th</sup> June).

Pupils should keep an eye on the weather forecast and make sure to bring a blazer if the forecast is for cooler weather.

(If pupils are not wearing a blazer, they must not wear a jumper or coat.)

Please remind pupils to bring water bottles into school.

Neil Baxter, Deputy Headteacher

### Book return day

Book Return this year will take place on Fri 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2:10pm - 3:10pm, in the Plaza.

There will also be a drop off box in main reception, for those students who cannot make the 30th.

Neil Baxter, Deputy Head

### Second Hand Uniform Sales

Friday 7th July 2023 4.30pm-6pm

Saturday 8th July 2023 10.30am-12noon

Please bring cash. Usual location – in the plaza.

Balcarras PTFA

### Year 8 Science Exam

All Year 8 classes will have their year 8 science exam in their lessons on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June. The exam will test their knowledge and understanding of all topics covered in science this year. More detail on the topic content and how to revise has been shared with students on the VLE.

Jo Taylor, Science Teacher

### Lockers for Years 7-11

In order to secure a locker for the next academic year, please pay £3.50 via Scopay before the end of term. Lockers will then be allocated at the beginning of term in September.

Many thanks.

Sue Davis, Finance

### End of Year assessments for Maths

Revision resources and guidelines are discussed in class and available on the VLE.

Y7: Non calculator paper on 27<sup>th</sup> June for Q band and 28<sup>th</sup> June for P band  
Calculator allowed paper on 3<sup>rd</sup> July for both bands.

Y8: Non calculator paper on 12<sup>th</sup> June for P band and 13<sup>th</sup> June for Q band  
Calculator allowed paper on 14<sup>th</sup> June for both bands.

Em Van Dorpe, Maths Teacher

### Activities Week

If you have not paid for your child's activities, then could I please ask you to address this asap via your Scopay account.

I can assure you that there will be regular updates happening on our website really soon regarding times and meeting places for each event.

Please do keep a close eye on the web page for all of this information.

Should you have any queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me: [ljm@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:ljm@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk)

Mrs Massey, Activities Week Co-ordinator

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## Wychwood Festival

Barney Vacher, one of our Year 11 pupils got to work at the Wychwood festival this year, here is a little article about his experience.

Over the course of four days (Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> to Friday 4<sup>th</sup>), I worked at Wychwood festival. For the first couple days, I looked after three venues which ran small open mic events and workshops. However, on the last day I was reassigned to the main stage. I worked with some pretty large names including Sam Ryder, Mel C from the Spice Girls and Toploader. Meeting and working for all these people was an amazing opportunity and I learned a great deal from the stage crew stationed there.



## Graveney Success



Daniel Smith 7G1 recently took part in the Regional competition for horse riding and achieved 1st place!

He has now qualified for the Nationals competition in July!

Good luck Daniel!

## Year 9 Athletics District Event (7<sup>th</sup> June)

Blue Heath-Smith - 300m and District record holder

Frankie Robinson - 75m Hurdles

Josh Hill - 800m B Race

Girls Relay Winners (Josie Steer, Frankie Robinson, Daisy Rocco-Devoy, Bea Tozza) - Broke the record which was from 1989 at 54.2s!!

The Year 9 girls came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall.

Amy Trapnell, PE Teacher

## Music news

This has been an exceptionally busy few weeks, as our GCSE and A' Level students put the finishing touches to their musical compositions and submitted them before going off on study leave. We wish them well with all of their exams. Before they left, three of our Y13 students – Rachel Kimber, Caleb Horne and Jamie Mazzocchi – had the honour of representing the school at the Cheltenham International Film Festival 2023!

They provided background music to over 100 guests attending the event, and this included the likes of Dom Joly (compere), and Tom Berkeley - almost direct from Hollywood - to share his recent exciting experiences regarding his OSCAR and BAFTA wins for the film he made with Ross White: An Irish Goodbye. He also brought his Oscar with him!



The students performed a set list of 90 minutes in total, including guitar, vocals and piano. The feedback was superb and they maintained professionalism throughout.

### Special concert on 27<sup>th</sup> June at St. Mary's Church, Charlton Kings

We are very honoured to have been selected to host a visiting church school choir from just outside Seattle in the USA. They are performing in a number of concerts here in the UK and various choirs and vocal ensembles from Balcarras will be supporting them in an informal concert at St. Mary's Church, Charlton Kings starting at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>. The concert will be finishing at about 9.15 am and it is hoped that refreshments will also be available in the church. There will be a retiring collection, which the tour organisers have very kindly suggested will be in aid of the Balcarras Piano Fund. It promises to be a really lovely evening. All are welcome.

### Exam Successes

Congratulations to the following students and their teachers on these recent exam successes:

Tracey Vacher – ABRSM Piano exam:

Laura Cadogan (Y11) - Grade 3 - Pass

Victoria Burge – ABRSM Cello exams

Rose Hanfrey (Y8) - Grade 5 - Merit

Verity Cadogan (Y10) - Grade 5 - Pass

Aaron Lee (Y8) - Grade 4 - Pass

Steve Browning – LCM Acoustic Guitar exams

Zoe Thomas Friend (Y10) - Grade 4 - Distinction

Lottie Pallister (Y9) - Grade 4 - Distinction

Luca Borrás-White (Y10) - Grade 3 - Distinction

Amy Pallister (Y7) - Grade 2 - Distinction

Amelie Wilson (Y9) - Grade 2 - Distinction

Jo Haslam – ABRSM Violin exams

Alex Joice (Y7) - Grade 3 - Pass

Stanley Moore (Y7) - Grade 2 - Merit

Alex Davies (Y8) - Grade 4 - Merit

Matt Bucher – Rock School Drums exams

Eddie Atkins (Y9) - Grade 6 - Merit

Chiara Contu (Y10) - Grade 2 - Merit

Gryff Pitcher (Y10) - Grade 4 - Merit

Isaac Brockbank (Y11) - Grade 6 - Merit



Midsummer Music (Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June) is almost upon us!

Come and revel in a fantastic evening of music-making, with acts on two stages (one indoors, one out) and, of course, the world famous PTFA BBQ and Bar (and ice-creams!). Doors open at 6pm and the music goes on till 10-10.15 (it has to be dark for the end!). Tickets remain the same price this year: £3 for children and £5 for adults.

Payment will be showing on scopay shortly.

A poster for Midsummer Music 2023. The background is a colorful, abstract watercolor-style wash in shades of teal, yellow, and orange. At the top, a white banner with a black border contains the text 'MIDSUMMER MUSIC 2023' in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, a white rectangular box with a black border contains the following text: 'Friday 23rd June 2023' in bold, followed by 'from 6:00pm'. A horizontal line separates this from the ticket information: 'Tickets via Scopay: Children £3, Adults £5 or Pay on the Door'. Another horizontal line follows. The next section reads 'Indoor and outdoor stages, a wide variety of music and a festival atmosphere'. A final horizontal line precedes the last section: 'BBQ, ice-creams and refreshments available!'. At the bottom of the poster, outside the white box, is the text 'Proudly sponsored by' in a small font. To the left is the logo for 'PETER BALL & CO. ESTATE AGENTS' in a serif font. To the right is the logo for 'music AT BALCARRAS', featuring a stylized multi-colored 'M' icon and the word 'music' in a lowercase sans-serif font, with 'AT BALCARRAS' in smaller capital letters below it.

## Art Space

Last term the Art department launched an exciting new series of extra-curricular sessions called 'Art Space'. The idea is that the department staff offer a series of workshops, at different points in the year, which play to their specialisms. These sessions are relaxed and allow pupils from different year groups to mix and be inspired by each other. The first two of these exciting new workshops took place last term. Mrs Leach's sessions focused on landscape painting using acrylic paints on canvas and Mrs Titmus's sessions looked at the illustration of animals based on the book 'The Lost Words'. We are proud of the creativity, originality and independence that the pupils who attended showed during the sessions. Look out for the posters in tutor trays for future opportunities to work in the department with our talented staff.

Sarah Leach and Emma Titmus, Art Teachers





### Congratulations!

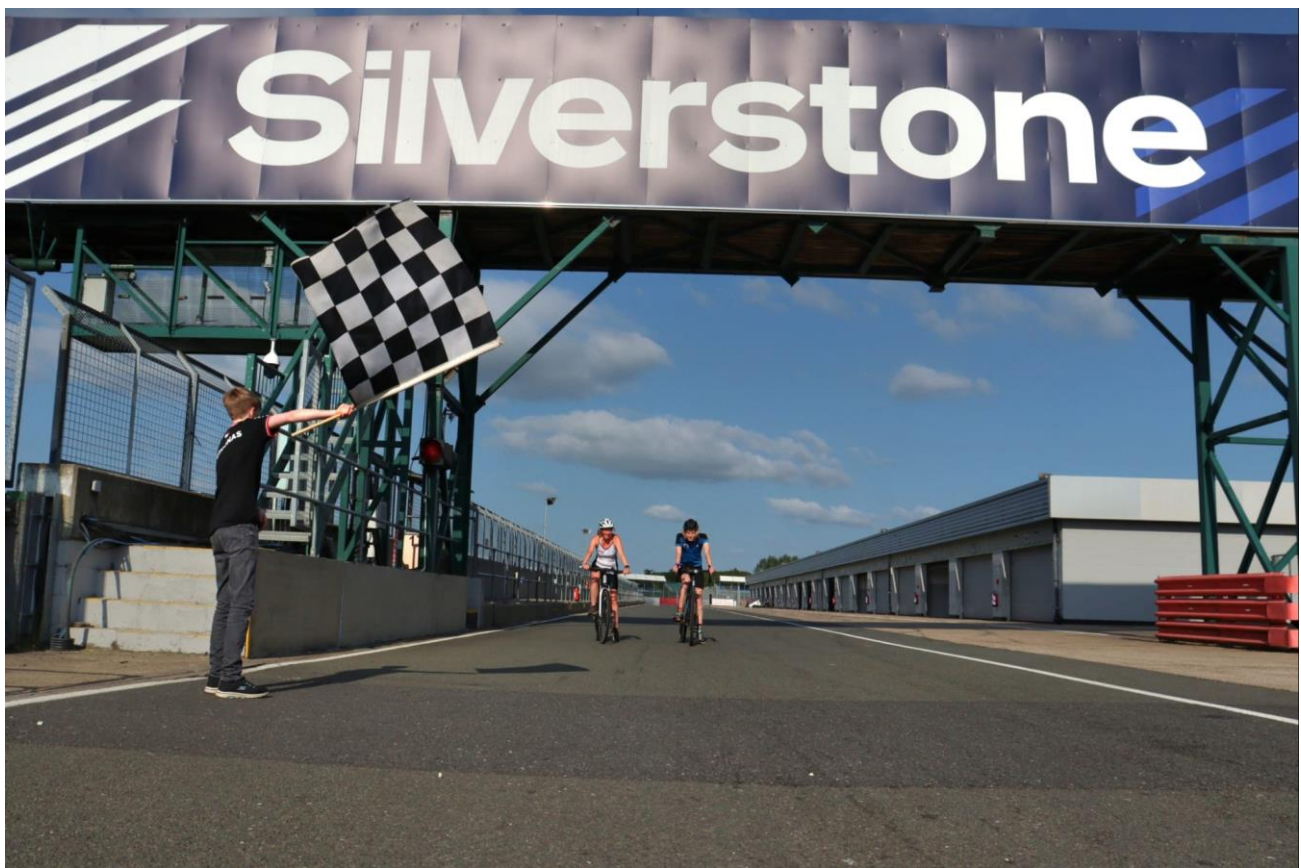
Many congratulations to Tom Mills (Year 12) and his Mum Sarah who took on a gruelling 500 miles in 6 days charity bike ride from Nürburgring in Germany to Silverstone in aid of a small local charity, Youth at Heart at the end of May. They did this because they wanted to support the charity who has supported a friend of theirs, Freddie, who was diagnosed with Rheumatic Heart Failure at 15 and has since undergone 2 open heart surgeries.

The charity offers emotional and practical support to young people with Congenital Heart Disease in Gloucestershire, for example giving them someone to talk to whilst in hospital and offer advice and guidance on navigating through becoming an adult with CHD.

The route chosen was because Freddie is a keen Formula 1 fan, so it seemed appropriate. Neither of them have ever embarked on anything like this before!

Their sponsorship page is: [www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/track2track](http://www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/track2track)

And their Instagram/Facebook pages are @cycletrack2track.



Tom and his Mum finishing the race, being waved on by Freddie Cox!

## Robotics Club Success

A team of 10 Year 7 students from Balcarras Robotics Club competed in the Southwest/Midlands Regional EEP Robotics Challenge on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Arriving in the morning at Warwick Trident College with their pre-built and programmed robots, the team quickly set out their plans for the day's competition. The first challenge was the Speed and Control Challenge where teams had to design and build a robot that would travel 2m, stop and then reverse back again, in the fastest time. Our team set a quick time of 4.6s but were closely followed by second place with a time of 4.8s. The second run saw the second-place team improve their time to 4.5s so they had to tweak the robot to see if they could beat that. A tense run saw Lucas (Speed Challenge Captain) put in a great time of 4.2s. A fantastic effort put the team in great spirits for the remaining challenges.

Next up was the Robot Design/Engineering Presentation where our team had to create a presentation explaining how the robots were design, developed and built. Following that they had to include a section on how engineering could help save the planet. Presentation Team Captain, Lottie A, helped by George K, Frank C and Felicity F, led the project superbly and the judges were blown away with the students' knowledge of their robots.

Before lunch, the students attempted their first run of the Challenge Mat, where they had to complete multiple mini challenges with their robot in under five and half minutes. It was a solid run and they scored well on most of the attempts. The Challenge Mat Team, with Team Captains, Ila C and Freya B, assisted by Quinn F, Ava V and Ellie H, knew they would need to make a few adjustments for the second run after lunch but felt confident that they knew what needed to be done.

After lunch, the team moved onto the Teamwork Challenge. They were tasked with building a free-standing Lego tower as high as they could. Judges were looking for planning, communication and teamwork skills. The whole team contributed brilliantly and it was obvious to the judges how well they planned and communicated their attempts.

Finally, the team attempted their second run of the Challenge Mat and where confident the changes they made after their first try would score them more this time around. The team's effort was again commendable, but they felt the attempt scored a little lower than the first go.

It was a tense wait leading up to the awards at the end of the day but when Balcarras' name was read out as regional winners the team were ecstatic!! The judges commented on how much fun they brought to the event and their great understanding of STEM topics. The team will now move through to the UK Final at the Big Bang Science Fair, held at the NEC Birmingham on June 21st, where they will compete against 40 other schools from across the UK.

Jamie Linnell, Computing Teacher





### House Dance

Our Annual House Dance competition will be taking place on June 27th. Each house will put together a short performance including dancers from years 7-10, organised by our new Performing Arts Captains. Students involved will miss one lesson on the competition day to perform for our guest judges; the results are announced during afternoon registration. Good luck to all of the dancers who are getting involved!

There will be highlights show in the main hall on the evening of July 4th. More information about this will follow shortly, but for now.... save the date!

Pippa Baker, Teacher in charge of Dance

### Careers

#### Year 10 Work Experience - July 10th-14th

Just a reminder that work experience will shortly be with us. Thank you to parents and the local community who have accommodated all of the year 10 students for a placement week. There will be a briefing for all pupils this month in order to help them prepare; pupils will be encouraged after this takes place to make a 'preliminary visit' to their placement in order to confirm final arrangements and be ready in order to make the most of the placement week.

#### Careers - Apprenticeships

A reminder that all current vacancies, particularly new apprenticeship opportunities are always posted on the careers VLE pages. There are many exciting opportunities emerging in the local area for both Year 11 and Year 13 students who wish to pursue an apprenticeship **in September, including a recent opportunity in Cheltenham town centre working for i2i recruitment.** Congratulations to Toby Clay who has secured a position at **Hazelwood's** for September after his A levels and Thomas Brady Miller who is excited about his upcoming role at Renishaw following his GCSE's.

Please do email careers if you have queries regarding future pathways for your child.  
careers@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

Vicky Bull, Careers

### Ski Trips

#### **Norway Ski Trip (February half-term 2024)**

The trip is full. Please ensure that monthly payments via SCOPAY are made according to the agreed schedule.

A reserve list has been created. Please contact [sed@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:sed@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk) if you want your son / daughter to be added to the list.

#### **Norway Ski Trip (Easter 2024) ... to be confirmed**

Owing to the February half-term trip being full, a trip at Easter is being considered for next year's Year 12 ... current Year 11. So far 15 pupils have indicated that they would be interested in taking part. For the trip to be viable, at least 24 pupils need to apply.

The trip will be promoted during 6<sup>th</sup> Form induction day on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Malcom Dean, Ski Party Leader

## Easyfundraising



Just a reminder that you can support Balcarras School through easyfundraising:

Please support Balcarras School on #easyfundraising this year, you can raise FREE donations when you shop online with over 7,000 brands. It's simple and only takes 2 minutes to sign up! This will make a BIG difference to us.

## Vacancies



The  
**Balcarras  
Trust**



**Balcarras**  
From strength to strength

### French Foreign Language Assistant

**14 hours per week - Term time only (no INSET days)**

**Salary: Point 31 £12,059.23 pro rata FTE £37,261**

**Starting September 2023**

We are looking to appoint a part-time French Foreign Language Assistant to work with students in Year 12 and 13 who are studying A-level French as well as Year 10 and 11 pupils who are studying GCSE French. You will be employed for 14 hours per week

Applicants must have the following criteria:

- Be a native speaker
- Enjoy working with young people
- Be able to encourage young people to develop and practise their French through engaging and creative activities.

For further information, please contact Freddy Seguin, Head of MFL at Balcarras School [fs@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:fs@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk) or see the applicant pack on [www.thebaltarrastrust.co.uk](http://www.thebaltarrastrust.co.uk)

#### Application

To apply, please send completed application forms to [jobs@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:jobs@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk)

**Closing Date for applications: Monday 26th June 2023, 9am**

**Interviews to take place shortly afterwards.**

*Balcarras School 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. 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.*

Click [here](#) for further information about this position.

## Young Enterprise Finals



The Balcarras Young Enterprise Team were pipped to the post in the county finals.

On Wednesday 3rd May, along with 10 other schools, the Balcarras Young Enterprise team went to the the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester for the Young Enterprise County finals.

During the day, the team had to pitch their idea to the judges, who came from lots of different companies including Invista and a finalist from the BBC show The Apprentice.

The team told them about our product, Bean Bag Coffee. Our product is a premium and innovative decaff coffee infused with flavours such as French Vanilla, Chocolate Orange and Caramel Fudge to provide an original blend to the niche coffee market. This idea originated from the fact that the average person consumes 100mg of caffeine over the recommended daily intake. This can lead to increased anxiety, high blood pressure and lack of sleep. We aimed to solve these growing issues within our society and to maximise our stance in the increasingly popular decaffeinated coffee market by creating a flavoured decaff coffee. But why decaff? Caffeine is a central nervous system stimulant, and with an overconsumption symptom of anxiety will occur. Our antioxidant packed coffee aims to create a level of balance within the populations caffeine fuelled brains while healing the scars under the surface of the coffee industry.

There was also a Q&A session in the afternoon where members of the team answered questions from the judges, for example unit costs, marketing campaigns and number of items sold directly and through the website (<https://www.ye-tradingstation.org.uk/product/flavoured-decaffeinated-coffee?v=2486>).

After all the judging was complete, there was the award ceremony. The team won best presentation but just missed on the top prize. We are all very proud of their achievements and thank you anyone who has supported us.

If you would like to support the Young Enterprise team, you can buy a 500g pack of ground decaf coffee in 3 different flavours (French Vanilla, Chocolate Orange and Caramel Fudge) online by clicking [this link](#), it is reasonably priced at £15.99. If you are having issues with this please contact [thebeanbagcoffee@gmail.com](mailto:thebeanbagcoffee@gmail.com)

Jack Goddard, YE coordinator



## Cass & Friends

Please see a flyer below for an upcoming function for Cass & Friends that is taking place at Balcarras in September.

You may find their website of interest:

<https://www.cassandfriends.org>

*This function is not hosted by Balcarras PTFA – please contact Fiona directly for any queries.*



**CHARITY FUNDRAISING PARTY NIGHT!**

**CASS & FRIENDS**

*Cotswolds Athletes Support Scheme & Friends helps young aspiring Olympians and World Champions in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire between the age of 12-18 providing funding for kit and equipment and sports psychology mentoring*

**Date: Saturday 23rd September**  
**Time: 6.30pm - 11.00pm**  
**Venue: Balcarras School, Cheltenham**  
**Cost per ticket: £20**

**For tickets please contact [fiona@cassandfriends.org](mailto:fiona@cassandfriends.org)**

**Ticket includes a 10 inch wood fired stone baked pizza and live performance from the local band**

**the bridge**



**10 inch woodfired, stone baked pizzas**

### Newsletter Distribution



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](mailto:ksa@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk)

### Reporting Absence

Parents of pupils in ALL year groups 7-11 should report an absence either by leaving a message on the Attendance Office voicemail (option 1 on the phone menu). Or direct dial on 01242 545114, or by emailing [absence@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:absence@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk) or [ljm@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:ljm@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk)

Parents should contact the attendance officer on the first day of absence and on any subsequent days. Any pupils arriving at school after registration must sign in at Reception, indicating the reason why they are signing in late.

Absence in the Sixth form should be reported directly to the Sixth form on direct dial 01242 545118 or by emailing [sixthformabsence@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:sixthformabsence@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk)

Please note that any requests for holiday should be directed to the relevant Heads of Houses/Head of Sixth Form and not to the Headteacher.

Lyn Massey, Attendance Officer

### Appointments during school hours

When pupils are attending an appointment during school time, parents must let school know beforehand. Please either send a letter with your child (who should show it to their tutor, then hand it in at reception when they sign out) or email [admin@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk) detailing, the time, what the appointment is for, who will be collecting them and the expected time of return.

### Balcarras is on Facebook!

Alongside our @Balcarras Twitter you may also now follow Facebook.com/BalcarrasSchool for updates and news about school life and events.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher



BOOK BY  
6TH JUNE  
TO SAVE

ULTIMATE  
ACTIVITY  
CAMPS



PAY BY  
CHILDCARE  
VOUCHERS

GET SET FOR ULTIMATE HOLIDAY FUN!

Outstanding activity day  
camps for 4 to 14 year  
olds during the school  
summer holidays at

**DEAN CLOSE  
PREP SCHOOL  
IN CHELTENHAM**

**ULTIMATEACTIVITY.CO.UK**







Charlton Kings  
Parish Council



## Parish Councillor Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for new Parish Councillors and, although we would like to hear from anyone who is interested in the role, we are particularly keen to hear from those with skills or experience in any of the following:

**Accountancy or other financial background**

**Working with young people**

**Project management**

**Sustainability, nature or green issues**

**Gardening/allotments**

**Planning**

Parish Councillors work collectively to benefit their local community in a variety of ways. It is an extremely rewarding role and a fantastic way to give something back to the area where you live or work.

No specific skills or qualifications are required to be a Parish Councillor and we would like to hear from anyone who is interested in the role. However, you must be willing to work as part of a team and be enthusiastic about improving your local area.

You must be over 18 and either live within three miles of the Parish or work within it.



**Please contact the Parish Office (01242 250087 or [clerk@charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk))**