



**BALCARRAS**  
From strength to strength

# NEWSLETTER

## Welcome from the Headteacher

Dear Parents,

Another highly successful term draws to a close here at Balcarras. We are now in the full swing of the exam season. I would like to congratulate all of our pupils in Year 11 and 13 who have been absolutely superb in each of the exams so far. I wish them all well for the remaining papers.

The school is in fine fettle as we reach May half term—although I get the impression that everyone is ready for a break. On Saturday I'm flying off to Guernsey for a week's holiday—I am looking forward to having a swim in the sea. Sunday will be a particularly stressful day with Leeds United in the Championship Play Off Final. May I take this opportunity to wish all of the many Leeds fans linked to the school best wishes for a successful outcome at Wembley!

Keep up to date on all our news:

[WWW.BALCARRAS.GLOUCS.SCH.UK](http://WWW.BALCARRAS.GLOUCS.SCH.UK)

## CAMPAIGN FOR "JOOLS LAW" DOMINIC BURKE, HEADTEACHER



The school has been asked by Julian Sweeney's parents to publicise a petition they are organising to force parliament to debate the issue of online safety particularly regarding the responsibilities of tech companies to share information and data they hold on young people.

As many of you will know Jools was a pupil at Balcarras. He died in tragic circumstances just over two years ago and ever since his parents have been searching for answers. The school is fully supportive of their efforts to get this important issue debated in parliament. If you would like more information or would like to sign the petition, please follow the link below.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/661407> (or copy and paste the link)

## LOCKERS 2024-25 SUE DAVIS, FINANCE

If you would like your child to have a locker for the next academic year, please pay £3.50 via Scopay before the end of the summer term. Lockers will then be allocated at the start of term in September.

Please ensure your child empties their current locker and removes their padlock before the end of term.

## BOREHOLE FOR NIGERIA FUNDRAISING APPEAL – SUCCESS! GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

The geography department would like to pass on their thanks to everyone who contributed to the Borehole Appeal either by your donations or from taking part in Buddy's birthday Hot dog sale which was organised kindly by Mr Constance.

We are delighted to announce that we have reached our target of £1000 and have sent the money to the 'Hope Ambassadors and Childcare Organisation' who will now proceed to dig the borehole for Apomu Town in SW Nigeria. We will send you updates once we hear more.

# Balcarras is Going to the Movies!



The attendance prize for next half term is a trip to ~~Hollywood~~  
Cheltenham Cinema!

**On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July**

To go to the cinema you need to (from 3<sup>rd</sup> June to 17<sup>th</sup> July):

- Attend school **every day** \*
- Arrive **on time** for registration every morning and afternoon\*\*

\*a maximum of 2 half days off for illness

\*\*a maximum of 2 lates for exceptional circumstances

## CATERING VAN

NEIL BAXTER, DEPUTY HEADTEACHER

You may have heard, Balcarras School has purchased a new catering outlet, in the form of a classic Citroen Van. It is located in the middle of the school and already proving popular with the pupils, as well as helping to reduce the queues in the canteen.

We are going to run a competition to design a colour scheme for the van. If any parents have contacts, or could support with decorating the van, the school would like to hear from you.

At the end of this newsletter is a design template. Pupils are welcome to make a design for the van and submit their ideas to their tutors.

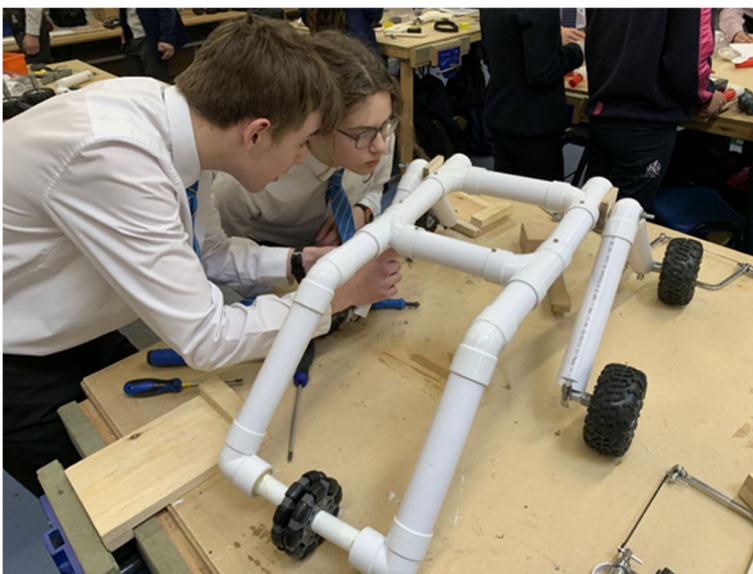
## CATERING NEWS

IAN COLE, CATERING MANAGER

Due to the rise in costs incurred in catering within the school we have no choice but to raise the prices on average around 5% after half term, we will as always subsidise the cost of a main course and dessert and our range of fresh fruit products.

## MARS ROVER CHALLENGE

JEREMY NIBLETT, TEACHER OF SCIENCE



Five Year 10 students were fortunate enough to participate in a 'Mars Rover Challenge' facilitated by the Cheltenham Education Partnership. The first session was planning, and we had to split our £200 budget between all the components we would need. Then, for the next 2 sessions, it was up to us to construct our rover. Most of it was straightforward, but we managed to overcome any challenges we faced and in the end our Rover was able to negotiate obstacles including lunar craters. Don't worry, we still found time to show some Balcarras pride by naming our rover 'B.U.R.K.E' (Balcarras Universally Recognised Kit of Exploration) and adorning it with a laser cut portrait of Mr Burke!

William Pearne

## \*\*\* ACTIVITIES WEEK \*\*\*

LYN MASSEY

**Please note that all invoices for activities week have now been sent out and are on Scopay for prompt payment please.**

**the deadline for payment is 7<sup>th</sup> June.**

**Much more information will be on the website very soon.**

**[ljm@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:ljm@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk)**

## GEOGRAPHY NEWS

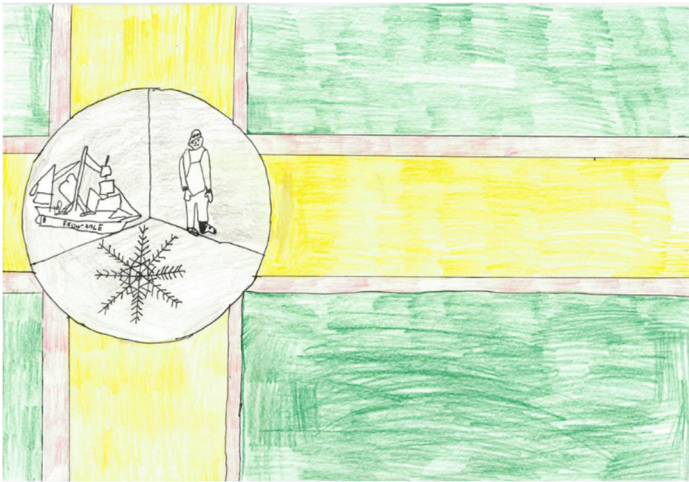
AMY SEARLE, HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY

## Isla's flag has made it to Antarctica!

In the autumn term, the Geography department ran a Year 7 and 8 competition to design a flag for Antarctica. The Geography Department were very impressed by both the quantity and quality of entries submitted for the Antarctica Day flag competition. It was a very tricky decision but our winning entry was by Isla Potter in 7O1. Isla's winning flag design was then sent to the scientists at the UK Polar Network to take to Antarctica.

We have now received a photo of Isla's flag design in Antarctica and certificate from the UK Polar Network! Isla's flag was taken to the Halley VI Research Station by Jonathon Witherstone from the British Antarctic Survey and they sent the following photo to us:

Well done to Isla and all the students involved.



## LANGUAGE LEADERS VISIT TO CKJS LEWIS FOAKES, HEAD OF SPANISH



When the Language Leaders went to Charlton Kings Junior school to teach year six, we were in for a wild ride! I knew teaching people was difficult, but Year 6 tested me in many new ways. For example: who knew running a game was so chaotic! Not me. But despite the chaos of competitive children, I had amazing time! I learnt new ways to teach people and the other members of language leaders massively enjoyed the visit as well. The experience was my favourite so far, and I am very much looking forward to – hopefully – the year 6's loving languages. The Language Leaders delivered a variety of lessons

in French, Russian and German and taught three sessions in 90 minutes. The topics we covered were food, animals, numbers and greetings. We can't wait to teach our next lessons. Keep your eyes peeled for updates! As the French say, merci beaucoup et au revoir!

**Written by Melissa Batty and Bluebelle Lee**

## SKI TRIP TO NORWAY FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2025 MALCOLM DEAN, SKI TRIP LEADER

Due to overwhelming demand, I have managed to secure more space in the Myrkdalen Hotel, Norway.

We shall be splitting the group into Juniors (currently Years 7 to 9) and Seniors (currently Years 10 to 12). The Senior group will be flying out a day later.

Junior Group (Maximum 75) .... 7 more spaces available

Depart Sunday 16th ... Return Saturday 22nd February

Senior Group (Maximum 30) ... 9 more spaces available

Depart Monday 17th ... Return Sunday 23rd February

The cost of the trip is £1395 payable over 9 months at £155 per month (May to January)\*

\*Monthly payment schedule will be adjusted depending on time of application.

Should you wish your child to participate in the trip, please contact me:

[mcd@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:mcd@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk)

## PE NEWS

## MARK HARVEY, HEAD OF PE



Congratulations to Evie Henderson, Gabby Habben, Maisie Marshall and Freya Hansen who won the girls Webb Trophy at the Cheltenham District Swimming Gala this term. The 4 X 50M freestyle relay is a one off event at the start of the competition with the fastest swimmers from all teams in the district competing across all year groups. The shield for winning is a real piece of social history as the event has been competed for since before WW2. It will now spend the year in a place of honour in the headteachers office. Well done girls!!

**District Athletics Success,**

The Cheltenham District Athletics Trials held on May 10<sup>th</sup> signal the start of the schools athletics season. Athletes have to have qualifying scores to even enter the event with the aim of going on to compete at County, Regional and then hopefully at the English Schools Championships. Balcarras took a team of 36 competitors to the event which is a great achievement for all of those involved but there are several athletes who won their events and are now District Champions.

Amber Tandy is 100m and 200m Junior District Champion.

Aidan John 100m Junior District Champion.

Patrick Paul 1500m Junior District Champion.

Olivia Avery 1500m Junior District Champion.

Freddie Maitre Junior Shot District Champion and George Iddon Junior Discus District Champion.

Blue Heath-Smith is Inter 300m District Champion and Frankie Robinson Inter 80m Hurdles District Champion.

Finally, Isaac Henderson is Senior 800m District Champion and Antonia Brown Senior 400m District Champion.

Well done to all of you and good luck in the County Finals.

**Year 8 Girls beat Pates in the Cheltenham District final 10-6.**

## YOUNG ENTERPRISE JACK GODDARD, BUSINESS



Students from Balcarras School, have come runners up at the South West Young Enterprise County Final. The final, was held at The Flacon Hotel, Bude, Cornwall on 16th May 2024.

Seven county winning teams from Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, Bristol & Dorset competed across 6 categories – Sustainability, Best Presentation, Creativity, Financial Management, Technology & Best Overall Company. The winning team was Cornwall, who had the idea of melting down bottle caps and turning this into surfboard wax. The Balcarras team did

extremely well! E-Tees, came away with the technology prize and runners up trophy.

Here is a description of their product: Elevate your game with our eco-friendly tees, crafted from locally sourced recycled paper. Championing sustainability, our tees reinforce our commitment to a cleaner environment, both on and off the course. Manufactured entirely in the UK, our tees outpace the competition by biodegrading up to 3x faster, thanks to our distinctive recycled paper composite material. Redefining the stereotype around paper products, our tees are not only strong and durable but also reusable. With an innovative biodegradable dextrin binder, they match the strength of traditional bamboo and wood - no need to worry about bent or broken tees.

If you are interesting in purchasing any E-Tee products, the link to their website is below.  
<https://www.e-tee.shop/products.html>

We are all very proud of our achievements and thank you anyone who has supported us.



## 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](mailto: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 blue ink that reads "Dominic Burke".

Headteacher



All vacancies are advertised on the Balcarras Trust website:  
<https://www.thebalcarrastrust.co.uk>



The  
**Balcarras  
Trust**



**Balcarras**  
From strength to strength

### Teaching Assistant (Qualified or Unqualified)

To start 1st September 2024

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.thebalcarrastrust.co.uk](http://www.thebalcarrastrust.co.uk). To apply, please complete an application form and send completed application forms to [jobs@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:jobs@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk)

Closing Date for applications: Friday 7th June 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.*

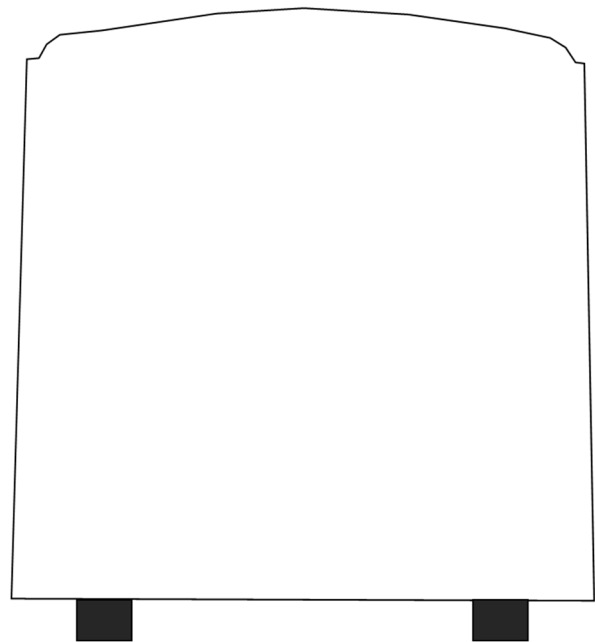
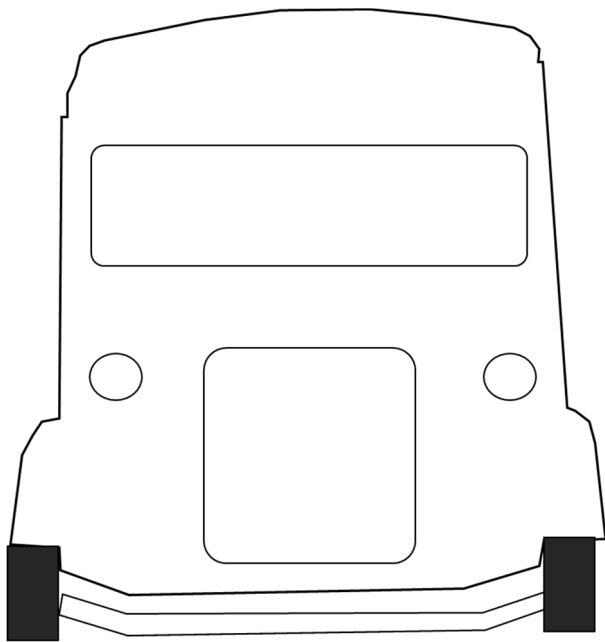
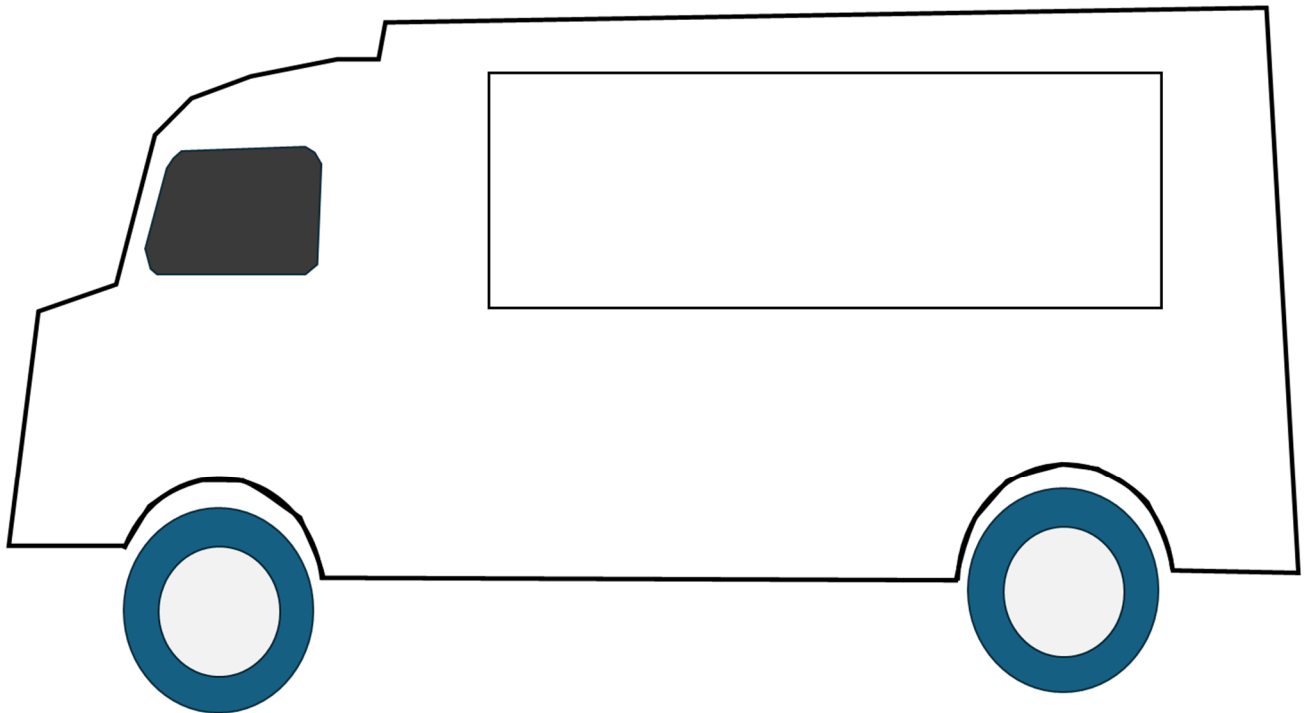
## Catering Van Design



**You may have noticed our new catering van. It is a new food outlet, to help reduce the queues in the canteen.**

**We are looking for innovate and bright designs. If you would like to submit an idea, complete your design on the templates. Your design should be bright, cheerful and uplifting. Send you designs into school by handing them to your tutor.**

## Catering Van Design



<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>
<b>Tutor Group</b>	



**FROM £47 PER DAY**  
SUMMER SAVER OFFER

**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

REFER A FRIEND  
EARN A FREE DAY

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**Charlton Kings TENNIS PLACE!**

**£20\***  
**Junior Tennis Membership**  
(Full 2024 season only)

**Everyone welcome!**

**Includes:**

- 3 visitor passes
- £10 off coaching courses
- Unlimited court booking
- Friday junior club

\*Offer ends May 31st

SCAN ME

**Charlton Kings Tennis Place**  
Located at Balcarras School  
East End Rd, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham



**Fundamental Movement Academy Cheltenham**

**FLIP TWIST ROLE**

**Gymnastics & Trampolining Classes**

**4-16 years BOOK NOW!**

Fundamental Movement Academy, 27 Swindon Road, Cheltenham, GL50 4AH

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