



Blundell's



DIARY

SPRING 2023

The Diary

..... Spring 2023

Another Spring Term has flown by with a whole ream of highlights squeezed into 12 weeks.

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In the pages of this edition of The Diary you will read about the remarkable achievements of members of the Blundell's community. Some are truly awe inspiring and have grabbed the headlines, others have flown beneath the radar, and some things might not seem like a big deal, but for someone, it will have meant a great deal.

There are so many seemingly important and earnest things that happen at school, that sometimes we need to remind ourselves that school should also be about creating memories. The type of memories we savour for the rest of our lives, and we talk about when we meet up years into the future.

through the exam system, and we need to do all we can at school to ensure that the tyranny of the exam system does not overwhelm what true education ought to be. It ought to be a journey of self-discovery, of growing self-awareness, of self-discipline, of skill development, and of relationship-building. I hope that when you flick through the pages of this edition of The Diary those fundamental educational values will jump out at you and leave you in no doubt that at Blundell's our children are receiving a world class education.

I would like to think that for every major achievement that we publicly celebrate, there are dozens of personal victories that individual pupils add to their memory bank. Whether that is finishing the Russell, or passing your GCSE Maths, or having a minor part in James and the Giant Peach, or learning to ski, or simply having overcome homesickness and learning to thrive at school.

I do worry sometimes that the business of school in Britain can be far too focused on exam success. Education is still designed to be a linear journey

I would like to think that for every major achievement that we publicly celebrate, there are dozens of personal victories that individual pupils add to their memory bank.



24



10



15



4



8



16



9



18



22



31



30



Academic Full Colours

Well done to Joshua, Lucie and Rainer who were awarded Full Academic Colours.



Chemistry Olympiad



Gold Award

- top 8% of the pupils in the country

We were delighted to hear that six of our pupils were awarded a Gold Award in the recent UK Chemistry Olympiad. This places them in the top 8% of the pupils in the country who sat the Olympiad, and is a remarkable achievement. The paper tests beyond the A-Level syllabus including critical problem-solving skills and encourages students to think more creatively and test their knowledge in new, real-world situations. We were also awarded 2 silver and 8 bronze awards.



James and Rainer are in the top 30 Chemistry students in the country

We are delighted to announce that James and Rainer have been selected to move on to round 2 of the UK Chemistry Olympiad, to be held at the University of Nottingham. This places both James and Rainer in the top 30 Chemistry students in the country. This is a remarkable achievement for them, and the Blundell's Chemistry department. They now compete to qualify to represent the UK Olympiad team in the International Chemistry Olympiad 2023 to be held in Switzerland. We wish them both the very best of luck!

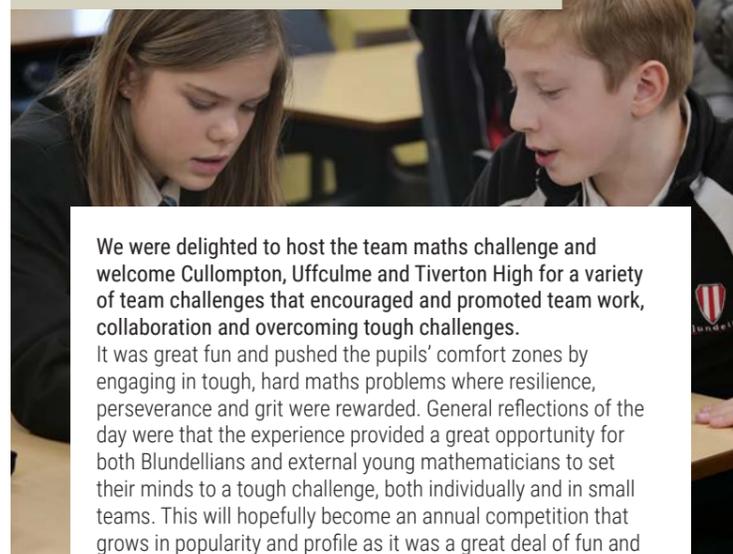
University Oxbridge Offers

Congratulations to Josh, James and Oliver who have received offers from University of Oxford to study Chemistry, Materials Science and Chemical Engineering.



Congratulations to Shirley who has received an offer from University of Cambridge to study Maths.

Maths Competition



We were delighted to host the team maths challenge and welcome Cullompton, Uffculme and Tiverton High for a variety of team challenges that encouraged and promoted team work, collaboration and overcoming tough challenges. It was great fun and pushed the pupils' comfort zones by engaging in tough, hard maths problems where resilience, perseverance and grit were rewarded. General reflections of the day were that the experience provided a great opportunity for both Blundellians and external young mathematicians to set their minds to a tough challenge, both individually and in small teams. This will hopefully become an annual competition that grows in popularity and profile as it was a great deal of fun and developmental for maths and general character as students.

Last half term, 92 students ranging from Years 8 to 11 took on the Intermediate Maths Challenge. Particularly well done to our 10 Gold award winners (a new record!), and the 8 of these who qualified for follow-on rounds. Well done to all the students on achieving an impressive amount of Gold, Silver & Bronze awards.

Intermediate Maths Challenge



British Mathematics Olympiad



Merits

Very well done to Ed, Anastasiia, Freya and Mengyan who all took part in Round 1 of the British Mathematical Olympiad. This is a very challenging Olympiad requiring rigorous proofs and only taken by the top 1000 students in the country. This includes students up to and including the age of 18. All of our students attained a Merit which puts each of them at least in the top 700 in the country. They should all be very pleased with themselves.



1st in England

We are delighted to celebrate Ed, Anastasiia and Freya's success in the recent Dürer Competition. This team Mathematical Olympiad is an international competition requiring the team to write out full proofs to 5 problems within 3 hours. We came 1st in the country and 12th globally which is a fantastic result considering the age of the students in our team.

Millfield Maths Competition

Ed, Betty, Henry and James went to the Millfield Team Maths Competition. The teams were given challenging maths problems and went through 5 rounds working in groups, pairs and individually against 11 other teams.

“ We are delighted to say that **Blundell's** were the winners and so a big congratulations to all 4 students who should be very proud of their accomplishment. ”



Winners

Degree Apprenticeship Event

Our Year 12 attended a talk on Degree Apprenticeships where they had an opportunity to learn more about the options available, to support decision making when choosing a pathway after Blundell's. The event was headlined by Savills, who have been rated 1 in the Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers in the RateMyApprenticeship awards 2022. We were delighted to welcome Louise and Miranda, both Apprentice Surveyors to share key information about how apprenticeships work at Savills, their experiences, and the decision they made to follow this route.



Leadership Day '23

Blundell's held the first Year 12 Leadership conference, welcoming pupils from 5 other schools. The day included a session of exploring personality traits through Disk Profiling as well as working in teams that focused on communication skills, how to be inclusive as a leader and how to resolve conflict. The Conference ended with a talk from the Head, consolidating and reflecting on the key ideas from the day's sessions.



Careers Fair

We were delighted to hold our first Careers Fair at Blundell's in quite some years, with a focus on pathways into careers in business, law and finance, which are accessible to students from a vast range of subject specialisms. This was an opportunity for our students, and for those from surrounding schools, to learn more about careers they may never have thought about and to widen their knowledge and understanding of the skills employers look for and the range of courses that can be studied in higher education. Our 21 stands spanned opportunities in Finance, Law, Marketing, Recruitment, IT & Cyber, Surveying, Construction, Real Estate, Planning, Auctioneers, Business Schools, Cookery Courses with universities Bath, Exeter, Cardiff and Reading sharing information about all their courses. We are very appreciative of all the time given by our exhibitors and for them to share their expertise.



Mock Trial

8 of our students attended the Exeter University Law Society 'Mock Trial' at the Maynard School. This was a hands-on opportunity for students to explore the workings of the criminal justice system, taking their place as prosecution or defence barristers, to cross examine witnesses and sample what it's like to be a member of a jury, all under the guidance of Exeter University undergraduates. Our Blundell's students got fully involved making the most of the opportunity, with Ruby, Isobel, and Cecily taking on key roles as the defendant, a witness and defence barrister respectively.



Employability Day

Our Year 11 spent the day developing their employability skills, taking part in a morning of workshops (Employability Skills & Personal pitch, CV's & cover letters, Interview techniques & Mock interviews) followed by a team-based festival planning challenge. The programme was led by 19 young Enterprise volunteers and employers sharing their collective career experience in Finance, Cyber security, Property development, NHS, Humanitarian Aid, Engineering, Community partnerships, Law & insurance litigation, Entrepreneurship, Project management, Arts education, Architecture and Education.



Learn2Live

Keeping Young People Safe On Our Roads

At the start of term we welcomed Learn 2 Live to Blundell's as part of our Sixth Form Enrichment Programme. Pupils heard from specialists from the police, fire service and ambulance trust about the realities of what the risks are for young drivers and their passengers, what the consequences of those risks can be, and how to realistically avoid them happening. The talks were hard-hitting and serious, but also incredibly informative and thought provoking. A truly valuable and unforgettable event. We are so grateful to Learn 2 Live and all the members of the emergency services, who give up their time so generously in the hope that it will protect our young people and go on to save lives in the future.

Mrs Jones

Senior Inter-House Debating Competition

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Senior Inter-House Debating Competition. Chester, Jack & Finn from Old House won the prize for best house for their proposition arguments on the motion: 'This House believes that a single world language would unite all people'. Freya won the prize for best speaker for her challenging and intellectual arguments opposing the motion: 'This House believes the governments should be bound by their pre-election promises'. A special mention must go to Mara from Gorton House and Pierre-Louis from Petergate who were debating in their second language which is a tremendous feat.



World Book Day

Author Joseph Elliot

As part of our exciting World Book Week celebrations, pupils were treated to a fascinating author talk and creative writing workshop by Joseph Elliot, author of the Shadow Skye novels; an award-winning, gripping fantasy series set in a mythical Scotland. Pupils learned about the craft of fantasy world creation, establishing a character's voice, the importance of editing, routes to getting published and even created their own thrilling story openings.

Ms Perrin-Haynes



History Trip to Berlin

The History trip to Berlin was a tremendous success. Despite a frightfully early departure after The Gut and a cancelled return flight on the Saturday morning the entire experience was enormously enriching. The walking tour of Berlin showcased the depth of History ranging from Wilhelmine Germany, to life in Nazi Germany to the more recent Cold War. A trip to the Stasi Prison, the Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, a wonderful evening up the iconic East German TV tower was followed by a day spent out of the city at Potsdam and then the more sobering visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp where an estimated 100,000 people were murdered by the Nazi regime. All of this and a smattering of the most magical Christmas markets Berlin had to offer made for an awesome trip.



Formal Dinners Year 12 & 13

Year 12 had a fantastic evening at their Formal Dinner last night. Arriving to canapés and Buck's fizz, they had the chance to chat and admire each other's evening attire. Pupils then sat down to teriyaki confit pork belly served on wasabi mash with charred pak choi, and finished with a strawberry iced parfait with an oat and honey crunch with an elderflower gel. The tables were then cleared to the sides of Big School to make room for the ceilidh, with local band Amber Fire. A first for many, the dances proved so popular that everyone was involved in every dance! The evening came to an end all too quickly, but all returned to their respective Houses buzzing from a thoroughly enjoyable time.



The Annual Year 13 dinner was held recently, with a theme of Night at the Movies! With amazing food provided by the wonderful catering staff, the Year were treated to a lovely evening that started with Canapes in the lobby and photos in the Oscar themed photo booth. Ankur and his team then treated us to a lovely meal whilst 'Back to the Future' played in the background. No Westlake meal is complete without a quiz, and the movie themed quiz proved a tricky challenge for some, with the Teachers table winning through! Overall, a lovely evening, with some amazing costumes! **Mr Baily**

School House Dinner Parties



Our School House dinner parties were a huge success this term. We are delighted to announce that this year's grand total raised for the school's charities is an incredible £2000! Thank you so much to all our wonderful Year 7 parents for your incredibly generous donations and congratulations once again to all our pupils and their tutors for putting so much into these fabulous evenings. We are already looking forward to next year's parties!

Chinese New Year



We celebrated Chinese New Year, which included taking part in lots of different activities including Chinese calligraphy and mastering the art of using chopsticks. Our catering team put on a delicious spread too, with a range of traditional Chinese dishes that were thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Spring Field Day was as packed as ever

Our Year 7's headed off to Plymouth Aquarium with some of our Year 7 Netball teams going to Bath for some professional coaching during a skills day.

Year 8 had a magical yet long day at Harry Potter World in London.

Year 9's were in Taunton to gain their First Aid Qualification and took part in some outdoor activities.

Our Year 10 CCF Cadets had a mix of outdoor activities, including Bushcraft at Somerset Adventure and a High Ropes confidence course at the River Dart.

The majority of Year 11 had a military STEM day in school, learning the impact of STEM in a variety of military roles, whilst a group of Year 11's went to an indoor Ski Dome in Birmingham.

Ten Tors groups from Years 10 and 12 conducted an overnight on Dartmoor, practicing their navigation and camping skills.

Mr Olive took the whole of Year 12 around various Community Projects in Tiverton developing strong links with the community.

Year 13 had attended the EDI conference in school with a variety of guest speakers, and the final group of Year 13 went on a vital Geography Trip to Dawlish. A very busy day for the school for pupils and staff alike.

Field Day



Netball Trip to Bath

Year 7



Modern Foreign Languages

Francophonie

We have marked the day of the Francophonie which means celebrating French language:

- 2nd most studied language in the world
- 274 million people speak it
- 3rd most important in the business world
- French is along with English the only language spoken on all five continents

Year 7

Our Year 7 created their own masterpiece, after watching and analysing the famous painter Joan Miró. They wrote a description of their painting in Spanish. During Roots and Wings, they watched Le Petit Nicolas and another one saw Coco (French and Spanish) which they enjoyed and learnt about a new culture.



Year 8

As for Year 8, to celebrate their end of cycle of French, they made a poster and were filmed presenting their project. Their parents were able to view the video online.

Year 9

Our Year 9 received lovely postcards from their Spanish pen pals which they have replied to, talking about their use of technology, on postcards of scenes local to the Tiverton area.



Year 10

Our Year 10 designed their own promotional leaflet of their region, showcasing local tourist attractions in French. All these projects are on display in MFL. You are welcome to come and see the colourful and interactive displays which showcase Spanish and French festivals.

HARRY POTTER World



Year 8 had a magical yet long day at Harry Potter World in London.





Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition

The Blundell's Clay Pigeon shooting team were in action at the Oxford Gun Company, taking part in the school's challenge, a national competition against some of the best shooting schools in the country. The shooting was excellent, and the teams did a brilliant job against some tough opposition,

with the likes of Rugby, Bloxham and Millfield all in fine form, and even Stathallen School came down from Scotland to shoot. All of the stands were set up to be challenging, yet achievable. The A team shot brilliantly with Teddy putting in a captain's performance, only dropping one clay across

the whole competition which is phenomenal shooting, although it left him in second place overall as Strathallen managed to have a pupil shoot a clear round. The rest of the team shot well too, with Barnaby scoring 44/50 and newcomer to the A Team Fraser scoring a strong 37/50.

The B team also shot well with Oliver scoring 38 and Jacob putting in a strong showing on 33. Overall, a long drive but worth it to shoot against some excellent competition, with Blundell's coming 5th overall, but the standout performer on the day being Teddy with 2nd overall individually.



Ten Tors Training

The Ten Tors have been training since September and hopefully have learnt some new skills. We now have three 35 mile teams and one 45 mile team entered into the event. All those who have attended training should be justifiably proud of their achievements and stepping out of their comfort zones. Ten Tors requires a great deal of dedication along with strong personal skills, learning to appreciate each other's strengths and support any weaknesses, these skills are often brought to the fore when the conditions are at their most challenging. They now have a three week break now until the event, and we wish them all the best of luck.



Obstacle Course

Our Year 10 CCF Cadets had a mix of outdoor activities, including Bushcraft at Somerset Adventure and a High Ropes confidence course at the River Dart.



Community Projects

Year 12

Despite the miserable weather it did not dampen the spirits or enthusiasm of 100 members of Year 12 as they left Blundell's for a day helping others. This was the second, now annual, Community Engagement day for Year 12 following the success of last years. As the Community Partnerships programme continues to grow it gives more opportunity for Blundellians to give something back to their local community. It is easy to put some money in a pot to help a charity or organisation but to actively engage with them is far more important and rewarding for all those involved. Pupils worked with nine organisations throughout the day as detailed below:

“It was great to be able to support those we had worked with before and excellent to have made new partnerships”

WILCOMBE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We returned to Wilcombe again this year to paint the fence enclosing a playground, cleared brambles to make it safer for the children to run around in the wilderness area, turned over the soil in preparation for a new vegetable garden and did some general clearing and tidying outdoors. The Year 12s were very efficient and of good cheer, spurred on by the looming rain and many little people asking us what we were doing! We had a great day out.



TWO MOORS PRIMARY SCHOOL

We were asked by Tiverton Rotary if we could help them in developing the pupil garden at Two Moors Primary School. *“A big thank you from Two Moors and myself for Mr Smart and his team. They were brilliant and so effective – team work, leadership and good humour all day. Would be delighted to work with you/Blundell's again on similar projects”* John Smith, Tiverton Rotary Club

HOSPITAL WILDLIFE GARDEN

Gavin Haig from Tiverton Wildlife Garden said: *“They were simply fantastic. Restored the wildlife garden. It's like new! The song thrush, and Kentish Glory were looking on ...they were most impressed. Great idea with glorious Sixth Formers. I encourage everyone to come and see their good work”.*

GRAND WESTERN CANAL

We had a fantastic day on the Canal planting hedgerows and trees to improve wildlife habitats and shelter along the edges of the canal. Excellent team spirit was shown by the 8 Year 12s who braved the mud and sleet to ensure that the little saplings were planted, staked, protected with tree guards and given a good layer of mulch to give them the best possible chance of survival. We also had time to take part in a harvest mice survey where, despite our best efforts in the drizzle, we were unfortunate not to find any nests but we did learn a lot from Jo and Craig, the brilliant Canal rangers, and we now know what to look out for in the future. All in all it was a really rewarding and fun day and, despite the mud and cold, we all returned to school with a real sense of satisfaction for a job well done.

“They were a really nice group of young adults. Both Craig and myself were impressed with their attitude and work ethic throughout the day.” Jo, Ranger, Grand Western Canal Country Park & LNR

“Please pass on our thanks to all the students that helped out at the Canal last week. They did a great job and we really appreciate their efforts.” Mark, Country Park Manager, Grand Western Canal

“It was my first field day at the school, and I had an unforgettable experience like I have never had before. We worked in a house by the canal with a beautiful view. Under the patient guidance of my teacher and friends, I learnt how to cut wood quickly with a saw, used a nail gun to fix the wood I sawed, and worked with my friends to complete two pieces of work that I am very proud of - a bat box and a bird box. I am sure I will use these skills in my future life!” Y12 pupil

PINE LODGE

We have been supporting Hospiscare and working at Pine Lodge for a number of years but Covid and the building around the centre had stopped things, so it was great to head back to their garden for the day. The group cleared the vegetable garden and dug it over. Planted some potatoes, carrots and leeks. Stripped the paths of moss, cleared the driveway, ‘fixed’ a compost bin, carried out a lot of weeding, cleared some drains of leaves and basically tidied it up. Oh, and they cut the grass! The pupils kept motivated and worked really well. A good days work!

“It was an absolute pleasure to have Blundell's Year 12 Students join us earlier this week. They are a fantastic bunch of students, very polite and hardworking, a credit to Blundell's. The work that they did up at Pine Lodge was fantastic, they all worked really hard and the garden and veggie patch are looking a little more loved; Covid really did stop us doing so much at Pine Lodge”. Sharon Collins, Area Fundraiser

TIVERTON PANNIER MARKET

Jim Bray, Tiverton Pannier Market Manager posted on Facebook: Inspirational students from Blundell's School celebrated with cake after rattling through a series of DIY tasks at the market today. Nine A-level students spent several hours here as part of a community day – joining our mission to ensure the market is a clean, tidy, attractive and welcoming place for everyone. Jim said;

“We're indebted to all the students and Blundell's for offering to assist us for the second year running, after they painted the community building behind the market in 2022. They completed a great deal of useful work and were a credit to themselves and the school. It's certainly saved one or two of us some painstaking work that would have taken much longer!”

KNIGHTSHAYES

It was good to meet Will, the new Head Gardener at Knightshayes who quickly set them to work in the gardens. Leaves were the order of the day, millions of them! The group worked well to rake up huge areas of leaves and filled bags so quickly that the Knightshayes team they were working with found it difficult to empty them in time. All the leaves were taken off to be recycled into nutritious leaf mould. The Year 12s then had the chance to walk around the amazing and beautiful house and gardens with a tour and history of the building.

Art Scholars Competition

Congratulations

to Ella B in Year 9 who is through to the judging session of the Show Racism the Red Card School Competition 2023!



The Art scholars took part in the competition Show Racism the Red Card. It was great to see such a varied approach from across the year groups and showed how Art can be such a powerful tool to communicate such important messages. Only one entry per age category could be entered for the competition so we wish Ella and Bella the best of luck as their entries go through. A big thank you and well done to everyone who took part.



A-Level Fine Art

Silversmithing Workshop

Three Fine Art students (including two scholars) were fortunate to attend an Enrichment Silversmithing workshop in the wilds of Exmoor this week. Herded by excited geese and chickens, the group were taken through the stages of design, moulding in cuttlefish bones, casting reclaimed silver, soldering, forming and finishing. Artist Cat was on hand for a whole afternoon as expert, to guide the students in an excellent opportunity for learning new skills beyond the classroom. A valuable experience to work with an Artist in the field (literally!)



Just before Easter break our Product Design A-level pupils enjoyed an incredible day at the JCB & Morgan Visitor Experience.

Mr Frappart



Design Technology



Thank you to our Year 9 Design & Technology pupils who enhanced the Prep School's Wild Wonders area with these fabulous rustic signs.

Wild Wonders and Wild Explorers are firm favourites with the children in the Pre-Prep and Prep. We believe that using nature and the outdoors can help to nurture children's holistic development, help to build their self-esteem and resilience. We can't wait for them to explore the beautiful area with their new signs.



Mary Shelly

HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN

Year 12-13

A Level Drama students visited the Mary Shelly Frankenstein in Bath for an immersive experience.

They toured the many interactive room to help with their understanding of their set text and embarked upon the challenge of an escape room, which they managed to complete in less than an hour! In the evening, they visited the Theatre Royal to watch the Laurence Olivier award winning comedy, *Pride & Prejudice (Sort Of)*; a contemporary re-telling of Jane Austen's classic. An outstanding production and hugely inspirational for the pupils as they embarked upon devising their own play.



GCSE DRAMA EXAMS

Year 11

A huge congratulations to our Year 11 GCSE Drama students who performed their examination pieces to an external examiner on Monday evening in Ondaatje. Thank you to the Blundell's community for coming along to support them. We are incredibly proud of all their hard work and dedication.



Full Colours

Well done to Beth, who was awarded Full Colours in Drama.

Ocean at the End of the Lane

Year 10 & 12

DRAMA TRIP

Year 10 and 12 students visited the Theatre Royal in Plymouth to watch The National Theatre's Production of *Ocean at the End of the Lane*. This is an adaptation from Neil Gaiman's novel, the students were wowed by the spellbinding effects. This was a truly magical performance, enjoyed by all.



James and the Giant Peach

Roald Dahl is the ultimate children's storyteller. He always strikes the perfect balance between fun and fear. He can write the most outrageous and silly characters, and scenarios, but also doesn't shy away from darker themes, people, or situations. His stories make fantastic theatre - drama that is funny and entertaining but keeps you on the edge of your seat. It has been a true delight working with School House. The commitment, collaboration, passion, and professionalism displayed by everyone involved has been beyond inspiring. The real success to any production lies in the process, and this process has been an utter joy. Every time I direct a show, I explain that I am not there to stand on the side lines and shout instructions. My role as the director is to enable collaboration.

It is imperative that the cast feel relaxed, and this allows creativity to flourish. Subsequently, in this environment their talent has been ignited. Most importantly, they have had fun. This is their production, and my mission has always been to make them own it. I have been so lucky to have worked with such a talented group of young people, who have displayed such a sense of camaraderie. They are wonderful "human beans", each one of them. Thank you to the incredible cast, you have made me bounce from the ceiling in true Roald Dahl style. A BIG thank you to the Drama Department, for their endless support and guidance. I would also like

to give a special thank you to Charlie Olive and to the Music, Art, Marketing and Catering Departments. Lastly, a huge thank you to you and the Blundell's community who are always 'on side' from the get-go. This show would not have happened without you all.

Mrs Whitfield





Full Colours
Well done to Elizabeth and Isabel who both received their Full Colours in Music.

Blundell's on the Sea

This year's Spring Concert, *Blundell's on the Sea*, was a sensational treat for the sell-out audience as we journeyed across the ocean with Dr Leaman at the helm, stopping at various musical islands along the way to hear iconic music from film, TV and the classical repertoire with our fabulous Orchestra and Jazz Band.

In the second half we were joined by our guests from six Tiverton primary schools and three other local schools to perform the energetic and brilliantly composed *Ahoy!* by Alexandre L'Estrange, conducted with energy and joy by Andrew Johnson. It was an honour to welcome the composer and his band to the concert. It is not every day, after all, that pupils get to share the stage with an internationally acclaimed composer. To have so many young people join us for our first Tiverton Big Sing since the pandemic was a real delight and just the start of a partnership that brings the joy of music and singing to all Tiverton children, regardless of background and experience. With 275 musicians taking part on their instruments or with their voices it was incredibly moving to see so much joy for their music making on display. The extras all contributed hugely to the event, including a welcome from the UN ambassador for the oceans, Lewis Pugh, the catering team providing a fish and chips feast, and OB Jamie White creating a spectacular large painting during the show. Enjoying playing and hearing music is a life-affirming delight and you would be hard pushed to find a more enjoyable production than *Blundell's on the Sea*.

Choral Evensong

Blundell's Cantorum, the very highest level performing choir at school, and Blundell's Chapel Choir, featuring our very youngest pupils in the Prep School, travelled to Exeter University to sing a joint evensong with the University Chapel Choir.

The service was led by our singing teachers, Mr Graham and Mr Jeffrey, with support from Mr Johnson, Miss Atkins and Mrs Cracknell, and liturgy from Mr Hunt. The huge sound of the choir reverberated around the University Chapel, with the music by Wesley, Noble and Holst uplifting everyone present. On such a very cold, wet and dreary day it really was food for the soul. The link we have built with the University Chapel Choir is such a valuable asset to our choral provision. It enables pupils to see an example of where they can take their learning and choral singing post-Blundell's, building aspirations and academic and musical links with students currently engaging in Higher Education. Indeed one of the younger pupils said, as they left, "I think I'd like to go to Exeter University." To be fostering this ambition at such a young age is testament to the power of our partnership with the University Chapel Choir. A huge thank you to Mr Graham who, in his role as University Chapel Choir director, has been so enthusiastic in the building of these links.

Mozart's Requiem

Blundell's Senior Choir gave a brilliant performance of *Mozart's Requiem* in Chapel. We were delighted to be joined by members of the Exeter University Chapel Choir, as well as an orchestra consisting of Blundell's instrumental teachers. The evening began with an informative talk by Dr Leaman on 'Life Myth and Death in Mozart's Requiem', with fascinating information about the piece which was unfinished by Mozart when he died. The choir deserve so much praise for rising to the challenge to learn this difficult piece in the second half of term and the performance was one that I know the pupils will remember for many years to come. As well as full chorus numbers, including the sorrowful mood of the 'Lacrimosa', and the fully committed and energetic singing in the thunderous 'Dies Irae', there were also outstanding performances from pupil soloists. Congratulations to Jack, Guy, Alex, Winsome, Reuben, Ginevra and Summer, for such confident, assured solos. Well done to all the pupils in the choir and a huge thank you to all the staff involved who helped make this such a high-quality evening of choral music.

Pro Corda

Our musicians are performing at increasingly high levels and this year two of our chamber groups qualified for the semi-final of the national Pro Corda Chamber Music competition.

The U16 and U14 groups travelled up to Millfield School to compete in this prestigious competition and reaching this level is an incredibly impressive achievement. Coached by Mr Daly, the chamber groups consist of between four and eight players for each year group and they work on challenging and exciting repertoire that develops their musicianship, teamwork, creativity, and performance skills. The chamber music programme, introduced by Dr Leaman, is going from strength to strength and we look forward to the advanced music making of these pupils for some years to come, both internally in concerts and on the national stage.

Open Mic Night

Pop and Rock music is having a new lease of life at Blundell's.

Following the refurbishment in the Music Department, bands now have a space to practise and hone their craft. We were treated to a range of singers and instrumentalists sharing their skills with a supportive audience of pupils in a full Ondaatje. Organised by Lochy, Year 13, the evening was a huge success, showcasing the many genres of our more contemporary music making scene. From the serenity of Queen's *Love of My Life*, through to the exuberant *Hey Joe* by Jimi Hendrix, there really was something for everyone and we very much look forward to the next showcase.



Music in the Community

Perrott Hill Prep School
In January, Perrott Hill Prep School hosted some of our musicians as part of our 'Music in the Community' workshops. Musicians from Perrot Hill performed with our pupils at what was described as a 'magical event'.



Boy's First Team Cup Vs Marlborough

Rosslyn Park National Sevens

With so many players participating in the Rosslyn Park National Sevens, it would be fair to say that the Blundell's rugby community is in excellent health. The fact that we enjoyed some noticeable successes at the event is all the more satisfying. The U18 Boys reached the Bowl Final, and the U18 Girls and U16 both managed to get out of their groups and into the knockout rounds, which is not an easy task at a tournament that draws in school sides from around the globe. These performances came on the back of great results at the Southwest Sevens for the U16 Boys and U18 Girls, as well as the U15 and U14 sides winning their respective Devon Sevens cups.

Unusually, we continued to play the fifteen-a-side version of the game this term, as the 1st XV enjoyed great success in the National U18 Cup competitions. Their performances against Marlborough in the quarter final and Trinity in the semi-final will live long in the memories of those who had the chance to watch them. It has been an outstanding year, with top quality performances occurring alongside a growth in the numbers of boys and girls participating in the game.

Mr Johnson

Rugby

Our 1st XV beat Marlborough by 37-22 in a highly anticipated match that had already been postponed twice.

Every player was committed to the team effort and didn't allow Marlborough to generate any continuity or momentum. Our tackling was ferocious and our willingness to play with the ball and maintain a high work ethic was exemplary. The physical size of the Marlborough squad meant we had to defend for sustained periods and make the right decisions at key times of the game, which we managed to do. Our ability to generate turnovers that caused real momentum swings was exceptional.



DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

After coaching at Blundell's since 2009, Tony Yapp has been appointed as the new Director of Rugby, commencing from the Summer Term.

With his experience as a Director of Rugby at Taunton Titans and successful playing career, it is fabulous to have

such an experienced and knowledgeable person to take on the reins of Director of Rugby at Blundell's. Tony is passionate to create opportunities at various levels which are available to all pupils, to support their rugby journeys and create positive memories that will last their lifetime.



Ben



Reuben

Full Colours

Well done to Ben and Reuben who both received their Full Colours for Rugby.

Football

This year in football we have been blessed with an abundance of talent.

Unfortunately, the weather has not always cooperated and what should have been a season of success was curtailed. The rain and ice put a stop to the first couple of weeks but after that we hit the ground running with newly appointed captain Harry taking the reins, ably assisted by Vice Captain Reuben. Three wins on the bounce saw us take a commanding lead in the ISCA league, beating Wellington 2-1, Exeter 4-1 and Truro 6-3. After half term rugby sevens took hold, meaning losing 8 of our first team players, a depleted but courageous side lost 4-2 to Taunton and a match cancellation against King's Taunton saw us drop to second in the league. Guy took the spoils in terms of goals, scoring six across the season and Liam collected the Nicholas Cole Memorial Plate for best young player. As my last year in charge of football, I would like to say thank you to all of those who have helped and supported over the past years.

Mr Barrowcliffe

The footballing cliché of a 'game of 2 halves' can be applied to the 2nd teams' season of 2 halves. In the first 2 games we were dominant and scored goals at will. The first match v Wellington was a 5-2 victory, Oliver scoring a hat-trick. The 2nd game, v Exeter, was an 8-3 thriller with Troy scoring 4 in a magnificent team performance. The self-proclaimed 'great entertainers' seemed unbeatable, however Truro U16 proved to be a class above us, winning 6-1 with a technical team performance. The team showed excellent effort and resilience in the next game, we could have edged the 0-0 draw v Taunton.

The final match was a close encounter with King's, which we lost 3-1. Overall, an excellent season in terms of the boys' football development. The team was superbly led by captain Marten, many of the team will be leaving this year and I hope they continue to play football in their next endeavours.

Mr Simson



Netball

The 2023 Netball season has been a rollercoaster, we have seen a young Seniors 1st team develop as a group, going from strength to strength and our youngest netballers the U12s show complete dominance against all the schools they have played. Our opening weekend couldn't have been any better with 100% wins across every team, setting us up for a busy and competitive netball season. We have had a coordinated approach this term which has been hugely positive, and the girls have flourished with the focused weekly sessions. Netball continues to be a popular option at Blundell's and this year we had our largest number of seniors, having 6 teams to put out for

fixtures. Some of the highlights of the year are the U14 and U16 teams getting through to the Devon schools' tournament and the netball development trips to Exeter and Bath University. This was the first year of entering the Sisters n Sport competition and our girls enjoyed the opportunity to play other schools they wouldn't usually get to play. We have been very proud of the girls positive attitude in what has been a very wet term and their desire to be the best players they can, they have always shown exemplary sportsmanship and have been fantastic representatives of Blundell's School.



Full Colours

Well done to Alice, who was awarded Full Colours in Netball.

Well done to Ben and Tom who have both been awarded Full Colours in Hockey.



Alice



Ben



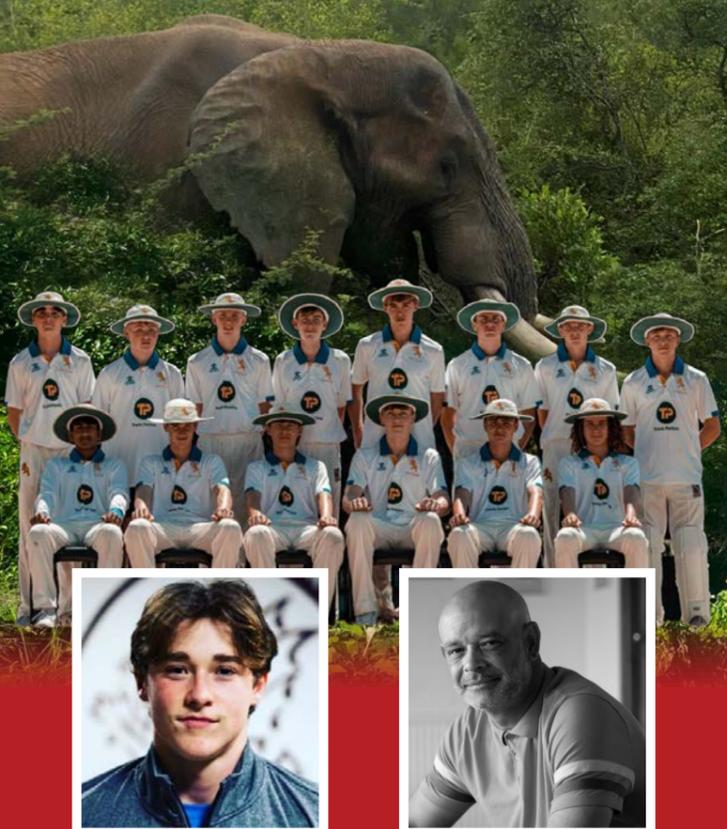
Tom

Cricket

UNDER 15'S SOUTH AFRICA TOUR

During February half-term, we spent 2 weeks on a cricket tour in South Africa with Devon Cricket. We had the opportunity to play lots of cricket in both Kruger Park and Cape Town. We also got the chance to see some amazing animals and go on safaris. Overall, it was a great trip and a very memorable experience.

Henry & Harvey Year 10.



Congratulations to Seb, who has been selected for Somerset County Cricket Club's Academy. Seb started playing cricket for Teignmouth and Shaldon when he was eight years old and has since then gone on to play for Exeter XI and with the Devon Youth System.

We are delighted to be welcoming Dean Headley to Blundell's as the new Director of Cricket. Dean has had a very successful career as a cricketer, most notable as an international player for England from 1996-1999. His professional career spanned 11 years, he played for Kent, Middlesex and Worcestershire. He has a wealth of experience in coaching young cricketers having worked in schools for 13 years. Blundell's will certainly benefit from his extensive knowledge, experience and, hugely infectious enthusiasm for the game.

A big congratulations to our Girls Cricket team who are now the Lady Taverners U15 Indoor Cricket County Champions. The Lady Taverners Indoor Competition provides girls in Secondary School education with an opportunity to compete in a National Indoor Cricket Competition through a fun and fast format of the game. This is a massive achievement, well done girls!



SPORTS

THE NATIONAL SCHOOLS

Fives

CHAMPIONSHIPS

St. Paul's School, London. 25-27th March

Singles - First Day - everyone was involved in the plate competition. Felix (seeded 9) reached the quarter-finals of the main cup before losing a hard-fought match to the eventual losing finalist.

Doubles - Second Day - Dom & Nick played in the plate competition; Angus & Charlie proved a formidable pairing securing victory in the second plate competition and Felix & Jacob reached the quarter-finals of the main competition before losing to eventual winning finalists (a very powerful pair including the same player Felix had faced in the singles!).

The whole team had a thoroughly enjoyable experience and acquitted themselves admirably, on and off the court. Huge thanks to Wayne Enstone & Chris Hedley-Dent for their constant support, encouragement and presence.

Mr Stone



Cross Country

A group of intrepid runners set off for a dark, cold and gloomy Clatworthy Reservoir for a Mob race.

The team were met with what could only be described as a scene from the Lord of the Rings with grey clouds swirling around what looks like an endless abyss of water. The rain came, along with some hail, and the team pitted themselves against Millfield, King's, Brymore and Wellington. After a brutal opening hill - described as Heartbreak's bigger brother - a brilliant performance by all put them 2nd team overall to King's. Stand out performances go to Brad (Y12 OH) with an excellent 3rd place overall, and Pierre-Louis (Y12 P) with a 5th place.

SPORTS



Hockey

Boys' Hockey teams played more matches (98) and won more games (60) than in any previous season.

The 1st XI were outstanding, winning 11 out of 13 matches and reached the Quarter Finals of the National Schools (Tier 2) competition, going out to Magdalen College School on penalty shuffles. Highlights included victories over Dauntsey's (3-2) and Taunton (7-1). In 13 games, the 1st XI scored 77 goals and conceded only 16.

The U15A also reached the Quarter Finals of the ISHC (beating Taunton, Millfield and Sherborne along the way) before losing 1-2 in a well-fought encounter with St George's, Weybridge. This was their only defeat in 12 matches played.

The U13A beat Repton 2-1 in their Quarter Final of the ISHC and qualified for the National Finals day in Nottingham. Although they lost to Whitgift in the semi-final, they picked themselves up to beat Bishop Vesey's GS 5-4 and claimed the bronze medal.

The 2nd XI also had a fine season, losing just once (to King's Ottery 1st XI) from 9 encounters while the **U12A** entered the Booker Shield at Bristol GS for the first time, finishing a creditable 3rd out of 12 schools.



The Russell

2023 Results

This year we were blessed with good weather for all three of The Russell races.

Each of the runs were completed in chilly although clear and dry conditions with generally dry firm ground. The School House runners were first off and enthusiastically sprinted away from the start line. They hit the wet and muddy section first and made sure it was well turned over for the later junior and senior races. The boys' race was closely fought with just 23 seconds separating the first 3 over the line and with Noah just nudging ahead of Matt to win by 4 seconds. The girls' race was equally fought out with Tilly finishing ahead of Amelia by a mere 10 seconds.

The girls' junior races this year were dominated by Daisy with wins in each of the three competitions. The final race was won with over a minute and a half to spare from Molly and Pippa. Their move into the senior category next year will certainly be interesting! It was Gemma who secured a well-earned victory in the senior girls' competition opening up a small lead from Lucy and Amelia as they closed out the course.

The boys' events were both keenly raced. Dan won the junior boys' race ahead of Fletcher and Lewis. All three, along with ZinZan traded places throughout

the previous two races. The senior boys' race produced what could well be one of the closest finishes in Russell history with just 3 seconds separating Ben and Harrison. After running together for the majority of the course, it all came down to the final run-in where Ben was able to just hold onto the front spot. All of Year 13 can now breathe easy knowing that, unless they choose to enter the Open Russell in the future, climbing Heartbreak Hill is now just for storytelling. Many do however return and, if like George Graham, an Old Blundellian, they choose to go again they may yet, as he did this year, take the title of Open Russell winner. As always, a massive thankyou to everyone involved; students who make the day such a pleasure for everyone, house parents that ensure everyone is ready for the day, the grounds and facilities teams for the course and event setup, the staff who marshal the course and manage the finish line and also the local farmers, landowners and Canal Trust who allow us to trample their fields. Time to start planning your training for next year!

“
All of Year 13 can now breathe easy knowing that, unless they choose to enter the Open Russell in the future, climbing Heartbreak Hill is now just for storytelling.
”

From Mr Bussell



Berry Barker Ballance cup

This year the trophy goes to a boy who has embodied what running cross-country is all about.

To most pupils the thought of a cross-country run would fill them with dread. With every new runner, the hardest part is starting and then another level is required to maintain the self-discipline and effort needed to show continued improvement. The determination needed to push through the pain barrier and to keep going can become overwhelming, but this pupil has shown amazing grit and resolve. During the year this pupil has professionalised his training and, whilst raising money for charity, recently completed his first half marathon. From a 67th position finish last year to this year finishing in an impressive 7th place, the 2023 Berry Barker Ballance cup goes to Brad.



TROPHY	YEAR	WINNER	HOUSE	TIME
SH Girls Winner	Year 7	Tilly	School House	18:10
SH Boys Winner	Year 8	Noah	School House	17:15
First Junior Girl	Year 10	Daisy	Gorton House	32:01
First Junior Boy	Year 10	Dan	Francis House	27:58
Junior Girls House Team			North Close	
Junior Boys House Team			Francis House	
First Senior Girl	Year 12	Gemma	Gorton House	40:46
Second Senior Girl	Year 11	Lucy	North Close	41:42
First Senior Boy	Year 12	Ben	Old House	32:02
Second Senior Boy	Year 12	Harrison	Francis House	32:05
Senior Girls House Team			Gorton House	
Senior Boys House Team			Old House	
Girls Cumulative House Points			Gorton House	
Boys Cumulative House Points			Old House	



Wilcombe

COMMUNITY



Wilcombe Year 6 Activity Day

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

28 Year 6's from Wilcombe arrived for a morning session led by the Design and Technology Department. They have a great environmental area at Wilcombe so linking the two together seemed to make sense. After a Health and Safety briefing, as for many, this was their first time in a workshop they set about making Bug Hotels. They learnt about design plans and how to turn them into reality using a range of tools. These will be taken back to Wilcombe where they will be finished when they have found a range of fillings to give those bugs a cosy habitat to survive next winter. After a tasty lunch the Year 6's headed for a Netball session led by Year 10 Sports Leaders and a final visit to the Blundell's Garden to chat about good locations to place their bug hotels.

Our Primary School Partnerships Programme offers schools a two-hour activity led by Blundellians. We have run two Primary School Activity Days this term



Heathcoat

Heathcoat Year 4 Activity Day

MATHS

56 Year 4's from Heathcoat Primary School were excited to be back at Blundell's. The next topic in their maths syllabus was coordinates so our Maths Department had put together three activities that introduced and developed the topic. They started off using coordinates to complete a treasure hunt activity before moving on to a game of Battleships. After break they applied what they had learnt with an active outdoors session around Big Field in which they had to use coordinates to direct them to various locations gathering clues which spelt 'Great effort Heathcoat Primary!' Following delicious fish and chips for lunch and a visit to Gorton House it was time for a sport session. Our Year 11 Sports Leaders led two excellent sessions on tag rugby and tennis. The visitors got fully involved as they had done throughout the day.

Mr Olive

Garden Open Day

It was tipping it down as we got things ready for the Garden Open Day but just as the first activity was due to start the clouds parted and the spring sun shone through (briefly!). The morning saw a group of budding gardeners from Wilcombe and Heathcoat Primary Schools learning about the importance of pollinators and wildlife in the garden. They then made

their own pots from newspaper in to which they could choose to sow a variety of seeds including cosmos, nasturtiums, sun flowers, corn flowers or calendula. The kitchen in the cabin, built thanks to a grant from the Devon Community Foundation now allows us to cater properly for a wide range of school based and community focused events. A keen group

of Blundellians ran the café with support from the Catering Team. Smoothies, milkshakes, hot chocolate, Easter themed cakes, jacket potatoes, homemade pasties and soup were on offer. All of which attracted a mass of hungry customers at morning break and throughout lunchtime. Some were lucky enough to also enjoy a brief moment in spring sunshine.



CHARITY

Charity Spring Art Fair

Ten local artists were invited to exhibit their work at Blundell House. After the buzz of a Private Viewing event, Blundell House was open to the public for two days. Those who came along enjoyed an array of quality artwork including ceramics, wood sculptures, fine pencil drawing and photography. We were privileged to showcase the work of OB Daisy Larsen, a talented portrait artist, as well as paintings produced by the young people in the Bhambyai Project in South Africa, one of the charities we support. Through the generous donation of raffle prizes and the gift of a portion of all takings from sales, the artists helped us to raise money to support our school charities.

Charity Pop Up Shop

The spring term saw a Charity Pop Up Shop in aid of CHAT, Churches Housing Action Team, where a house competition meant, pupils could get involved in raising money for an important cause. Thank you to those who donated their items and those who made some purchases that contributed to the incredible £2.3k raised. A big well done to North Close who were the winners of the competition!



Earlier this term, we had Chapel led by two of our Year 12, Jack and Rocky, to raise awareness and understanding for supporting the homeless. We had a home clothes day and Frugal Lunch where pupils and staff gave up Fish Friday for a simpler lunch of Soup and Pasta where the difference in price went towards charity.



Our Charity Club has worked hard this term where they've helped organise events such as a stall at The Russell and the Charity Ceilidh. They've also made jewellery to sell at the Art Fair and refurbished bikes to raise over £600. Great work!



Annual Fund Update

Watch our pupils tell us why they are so excited!



Our pupils are super excited at the opportunities the Annual Fund Projects will bring.

We need to raise **£2,730** to complete all four of the projects.



Project 1:

CAMERA LENS & CAMERAS FOR THE ART DEPARTMENT

"There's such a wide range of activities to get involved with here, it's safe to say there is something for everyone! And I'm personally really excited about the upcoming photography project. I feel it's something that is going to really help me get ahead in this area." - Year 11 Pupil

Project 2:

GREEN POWER CAR PROJECT FOR DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

"The prospect of getting out and racing again is really exciting. This project will combine the practical theories we learnt, with real hands-on experience. I'm excited to get my hands dirty and I really think we can win!" - Year 12 Pupil

Project 3:

WATER POLO GOALS FOR HOUSE COMPETITIONS & SPORT

"Water Polo is becoming really popular at Blundell's and while it was great to try the sport with the current goals, they are only old soccer goals strung together with some string. Now that we are really getting into the sport, it's time to get some proper goals." - Year 10 Pupil

Project 4:

AFRICAN DRUMMING SET FOR THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT (BOTH PREP & SENIOR RESOURCE)

"I live for drumming - it's like the best thing ever. I really hope we can get the African Drum kit." - Year 8 Pupil



Past Events

Winter Lunches

The OB monthly Winter Lunches have been a resounding success and it has been a delight to see the Winter Lunch community develop and expand over the months.

The calibre and breadth of talks and the excellent food served, together with the intimate but casual ambience of these occasions, is clearly a winning formula! All members of the Blundell's community are welcome.

While the Winter Lunches have concluded for now, please [contact Janet Wooff](#) to be included on the mailing list for next time.



Annabel Venning (author and relative of the Walker family)

"Four out of the six siblings I write about in 'To War With The Walkers' went to Blundell's in the 1920s and early 1930s as day boys. A few years later, as young men they were thrown into World War Two and each faced a struggle to survive, whether on the battlefields of Burma or Italy, buried under rubble in Blitz-hit London or in the prisoner of war camps on Thailand's River Kwai. Their time at Blundell's helped prepare them for these trials. One, Walter, discovered his calling as an army officer in the school cadets. They learned leadership, team spirit, hard work and the importance of perseverance, which saved their lives several times over. But they were also very happy at Blundell's and retained a great affection for the school that shaped them." [Get the Book](#)



Kate Lord-Brown (GH 1987-89)

“There's much that has shaped Literary Blundell's, but nothing more so than its teachers. All writers are readers first, and I would not be the writer I am today without them.”



Revd Tim Hunt (Chaplain 2001-present)

"The secular holds sway over the religious, or so received opinion seems to suggest. Does this mean that there is no place for faith in the life of a school like Blundell's? I reflect on the understanding we have currently regarding the physical/material over and against the spiritual and whether religion, notably Christianity in this case, has anything to say to the Blundellian today." [Revd Tim's Transcript](#)

Michael Wade (W 1960-63)

Listen to Michael's [recital](#) of The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock here or you can read the transcript of his talk [here](#).



Can You Help?

If you would like to make a donation to the Annual Fund and help get these projects off the ground, please click here. <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/22136#!/DonationDetails>

Any donations of £250 or more will give donors a chance to name the Green Power Car.



OB Sport Weekend

Over 100 Old Blundellians, members of the Blundell's community, pupils and staff competed or supported at the OB Sport Weekend in March. All contributed to making the weekend a particular success this year and thanks go to everyone concerned. Football, Boys' Hockey, Netball and Shooting v pupils took place, with Fives played during the week. Post match complimentary refreshments were provided by the OB Club in the Beale Centre, where many took advantage of the opportunity to catch up, reminisce and linger to enjoy the atmosphere and camaraderie. The mix of age groups and sporting talents was particularly pleasing to see and we hope to build on this in future years. If you would like to be involved in this annual sporting weekend, please [contact Janet](#) or look out for the notifications in the Popham Post or Diary. Match reports and more photos can be found in the [Past Events/Gallery](#) section of the Community Database



Katharine Sendell (GH 2007-14), Lizzy Clark (GH 2002-09), Janet Wooff (GH 1980-82), Rob Sanders (P 2004-09), Patrick Howe (P 2002-09) & Benjamin Wooff



Bristol Regional Drinks

Thank you to the 30+ OBs and Parents who attended our Bristol Drinks in February.

The school connects us all in so many ways, and it was fantastic for these guests from all different associations and year groups to come back to mingle!



Sim Allanson-Bailey (M. 1975-80) & Jess Lampard (GH 1981-83) Joint OB cup winner

Future Events



OLD BLUNDELLIAN DAY

Saturday 10th June 2023

We are thrilled that Olivia Pinkney nee Richards (GH 1986-88), until recently, Chief Constable of Hampshire Constabulary, has agreed to be President for the day. Olivia has served in various national police roles and chair of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum. She has been a part of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, led the College of Policing as Director of the Senior Command Course and was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in the 2016 New Year Honours list. Olivia currently tutors with the Cambridge University Institute of Criminology, chairs the Cumberland Lodge Police committee with The Police Foundation, and is taking some time post-policing to reflect on wider future opportunities.

We welcome as our Preacher the greatly respected Andrew Berrow (Staff 1997-present, Head of RS 1998-present, Housemaster of Petergate 1999-2012, Head of Boarding 2006-2012 and Senior Master 2012-present).

Reading the lesson at the Chapel Service will be Eleanor Freeman (née Swarbrick, GH 1983-85).

Tickets are now available to purchase.

Book before 8th May to purchase a £25 early bird ticket.

Save the Dates



CHARITY GALA

30 SEPT 2023

Charity Auction Fantastic Food

All while celebrating the Rugby World Cup!

The 143rd Russell Run took place once again this year – it wasn't quite as muddy as previous years, but still cold and wet enough to require some Blundellian grit!

Russell Run

We had over 40 parents and Old Blundellians run the Russell in either the full Russell (8.1km) or Fun Run (3.8km). A huge thank you to the Equestrian Parent Community for supporting the day with hot food and drinks.



The Russell was even run by a few of our international OBs including Christopher Arundell (NC 1954-57). Christopher ran the historic San Juan Bautista De Anza Trail in Arizona, the same distance as the Fun Run. He says;

“While no ‘rivers’ and ‘muddy fields’ to contend with over here on the De Anza Trail, we have Diamondback rattlesnakes and wild Boar to look out for! Ah well, the Russell trained me for all eventualities!”



- | | | |
|----------|---|--------------|
| 03.02.22 | Richard Paterson Norris | (OH 1957-62) |
| 06.02.22 | Capt. Michael Anthony Guy Imbert | (FH 1946-48) |
| 20.03.23 | Revd Robert (Bobby) William Hampden Nind | (P 1944-49) |
| 13.04.22 | Thomas Ian Maule ("Tim") Ffinch | (W 1953-58) |
| 15.04.22 | Robert James McIntyre | (M 1957-62) |
| 19.04.22 | Conrad Jones | (P 1947-51) |
| --.05.22 | Peter Waterfield | (SH 1961-64) |
| 02.05.22 | William Thomas | (M 1952-56) |
| 18.05.22 | Alan John Furse | Former Staff |
| 21.05.22 | Richard Leopold Calvert Williamson | (P1949-52) |
| 26.05.22 | Col. Christopher Ward | (W 1941-44) |
| 07.06.22 | Robert Longhurst | (P 1964-69) |
| 10.06.22 | John Rae | (SH 1944-48) |
| 11.06.22 | Thomas Geoffrey Carpenter | (OH 1945-50) |
| 14.06.22 | George Christopher Craze | (SH 1944-47) |
| 15.06.22 | Robert Alexander Leest | (SH 1957-62) |
| 17.06.22 | Dr O H Donald Portsmouth | (FH 1941-47) |
| --.07.22 | Richard Evan Lewis | (FH 1951-56) |
| 12.08.22 | Timothy Mark Routley Lintott W | (1965-69) |
| --.08.22 | Michael John Vanner | (P 1946-50) |
| 20.08.22 | John Andrew Blackwell | (OH 1945-50) |
| 20.08.22 | David Ford Coplestone | (P 1940-47) |
| --.09.22 | David Campbell | (FH 1957-60) |
| 17.09.22 | John Rowland | (W 1949-52) |
| 21.11.22 | Jeremy William Lloyds | (FH 1968-73) |
| 17.12.22 | Stephen Brierley | (P 1973-78) |
| 13.01.23 | John Andrew Chapman-Andrews | (NC 1956-61) |
| 25.01.23 | Malcolm Walker | (NC 1953-57) |
| 14.02.23 | Jeremy Douglas Evans | (W 1972-75) |
| 03.03.23 | Michael William Hallows | (M 1949-52) |

Deaths

Professor George Leonard Huxley (SH 1946 - 50)

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Prof. George Leonard Huxley at the age of ninety.

George attended both Blundell's and Oxford. George immersed his life in the Academic world focusing on Ancient Greek. Throughout his career, Huxley was a prolific writer and he published and edited the numerous books. He married Davina in 1957 and during their 64 years together they did a lot of travelling, particularly in Central Asia, Iran, China and India. George's other great interest was railways from which he derived enormous pleasure. We thank George for the many donations he made to the Blundell's Library. [See the Blundell's website.](#)

Derek Denner (1966 - 1996)

Housemaster Petergate: 1971 - 1884; for over ten years Head of the English Department and a member of the Senior Management Team.

He was an inspirational English teacher, enthusiastic, with a broad range of cultural interests and he brought a sharp mind to all and any matters in hand. He was an accomplished amateur musician and had a fine collection of watercolours. Derek passed away 12 Oct 2022.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Friend Family

Congratulations to the Friend brothers who became the first four brothers to row across any ocean by completing the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge. [Watch the emotional finish](#) as the Friends cross the finish line.

From left to right; Hamish Friend (OH 2009-14), Jack Friend (OH 2009-14), Euan Friend (FH 2011-16) and Arthur Friend (OH 2011-16)



Aloysius Yap (SH 1982-86)

It was lovely to see Old Blundellian Aloysius Yap (SH 1982-86) visit Blundell's for a tour. Aloysius is currently residing in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and is running his family based investment holding company.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Chad Murrin (FH 1969-73), Thomasina Eyston (NC 2016-18) and Hugh Duder (P 1958-62) at Taunton Races.

Thomasina Eyston (NC 2016-18)

Thomasina joined Blundell's School for Sixth Form in 2016 which was incidentally the same year she rode her first point-to-point. Alongside her studies, she would ride out for the local trainer, David Pipe. After departing Blundell's in 2018, she spent the winter working in racing and gained her amateur jockeys license – now she could ride against professionals! She began to realise riding was a serious career choice for her. She had some incredible opportunities as an amateur, including riding at the Cheltenham Festival. After University graduation, she took the chance at turning professional and managed to ride a winner in her first race! She continued to have a successful season



with a current strike rate of about 23%. Thomasina would like to thank both the OB Club and Twaddlers Group for generously sponsoring her this season. She hopes to meet many more OBs while racing, she has already met many at Taunton races (see photo). Thomasina's career goals are to ride out 75 winners and to win at Cheltenham Festival and the Aintree Grand National meeting. She adds "Though keeping in one piece is also a major challenge of being a jockey and so I take no race for granted and am enjoying every minute of it."

Lucy Walliker (NC 2012-17)

Congratulations to Lucy Walliker (NC 2012-17) who competed in the UK Athletics Indoor Championships at Birmingham and came joint 5th. She was cheered on by many of her OB friends.





It's a very varied job!



Aliénor Cros (GH 2007-11)

Aliénor Cros (GH 2007-11) is currently Sales & Projects Manager at Sterling Studios, a decorative and applied arts company. The role involves creating decorative finishes (gilding, glass, lacquer, leather, gesso, etc) on walls, ceilings, and furniture for residential (usually HNWIs) and commercial (hotels, restaurants, private clubs), in modern and historic properties alike. It's a very varied job! Before this, Aliénor worked as Studio Manager for a textile and wallpaper designer, and also at The World of Interiors (interiors magazine). Aliénor is also a member of various organisations: Arts Workers Guild, Furniture History Society and Decorative Arts Society.



John Allen (OH 1960-65) pictured at his home in Mr Martha.

John Allen (OH 1960-65)

An excerpt from The Australian, April 29, 2022 "He's worked with Prime Ministers, Premiers, top bureaucrats, chief executives and big-name company directors. Over the past 30 years, literally as a one-man-band, John Allen has been the head-hunter of choice for some of the most powerful figures in the land as his Melbourne-based executive search firm completed over 500 top level executive and board appointments. John Allen & Associates has also completed 40 appointments of listed company directors, most of whom have been leading businesswomen. In the sporting field the firm has advised on CEO appointments for the Western Bulldogs AFL club, the Melbourne Racing Club and made a key executive appointment for Cricket Australia after the 2011 Argus Report.

But as he celebrates his 75th birthday on April 30, he has decided the time is right to spend more time with his beloved wife Virginia at their home on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula. The doors of John Allen & Associates are now officially closed, the trigger being two life-changing health crises suffered by its sole principal during the Covid-19 pandemic. The first led to heart surgery in March 2020. The second, on February 27 last year, was a sudden stomach upset that became life-threatening and he was in hospital for four days. If the ambulance that eventually attended to him that night after dinner at a friend's house in Dromana had been 30 minutes later, his doctors believe he would not have made it.

“...ten-pound Pom”

Over the decades Allen has also been labelled a “ten-pound Pom”, largely the creation of old

arch-rivals in his ultra-competitive profession. He was in fact born and raised for 17 years in South India by his English tea planter father and third-generation Adelaide-born mother. His memories of happy childhood years in India with regular ship voyages to Australia are reinforced by his father's 8 mm cine films and other mementos he still has, including a 1.96m King Cobra perfect skin caught and poisoned by his father in 1929. Allen's semi-regal English accent draws from his school education in Sussex and Devonshire in England and university in London before starting his business career there (he is now an honorary life member of the Australian British Chamber of Commerce). After securing an MBA from INSEAD in France in 1976, he moved to Sydney in 1979 and in 1982 was hired by Spencer Stuart & Associates in Melbourne.”

O.B. diary dates 2023

- 24/7 – OBCC v Sou'Westers. Contact: OB Club
- 16/9 – Thames Hare & Hounds Alumni Race. Contact: Development Office.
- 17/9 – Blundell's Community Rugby Trophy Tournament and Family Day, Big Field. Contact: OB Club
- 24/9 – Reichwald Fives Trophy Tournament. Contact: OB Club
- 24/9 – One Day Equestrian Event, Pontispool nr Taunton. Contact: Development Office
- 30/9 – Charity Gala Dinner. Contact: Development Office
- 11/10 – Winter Lunch – Speaker Caroline Burkie Literacy Foundation and Jack Maunder (FH 2008-15). Contact OB Club
- 14/10 – NEW DATE Class of 1993, 30 Year Reunion. Contact: The Development Office.
- 8/11 – Winter Lunch – Speaker Richard Dyett (M 1966-72). Topic: “A look into the world of Air Traffic Control”. Contact: OB Club
- 6/12 – Winter Lunch – Speaker Ian Seaton (OH 1964-69). Topic: “The City of London Corporation and the London Livery companies”. Contact: OB Club

Forthcoming Events

Events in purple: Prep School Events

Events in red: Senior School Events

Events in green: Blundell's Community/Association

Academic

Social Event

Sports

Coffee Mornings

Religious Service

Music

Public Speaking

Theatre

April 2023

25th TUE		Blundell's Association Coffee Morning FOB's Cafe	27th THU		Toddler Group resumes 14.00-15.15/ Pre-Prep Hall
28th FRI		Sensory Storytime for Under 5's with Mrs Clifford 10:00 - 11:00 / Tiverton Library	28th-30th		Ten Tors Dartmoor

May 2023

5th FRI		Home Clothes Day in aid of the Syria and Turkey Earthquake Appeal Senior School	6th SAT		The Coronation of King Charles III Senior School
12th FRI		Homeless Sleepout in Aid of CHAT Mid Devon Senior School			
13th SAT		Year 11 NC & GH Families invited for tea & cake 11:30-12:30 / Gorton House	13th SAT		Drinks reception for Year 13 parents 12.00-13.00 / Fob's Cafe
13th SAT		Years 9 Parents' Academic Forum Ondaatje Hall	13th SAT		Guest Morning 08:45 -12.00 / Beale Centre
15th MON		Blundell's Association Parents' Tennis Drop-in Evening 18:30 / Tennis Courts	17th WED		'You're not in this Alone' - a PSHE discussion evening for parents 19:00 / Beale Centre
18th THU		Pre-Prep Showcase Assembly for parents 08:15 / Prep Hall	19th FRI		Messy Play Morning 09:30-10:30 / Pre-Prep Hall
18th-20th		Devon County Show: Drinks reception for parents, OB's and Govenors 2-4pm on 18th May Westpoint	20th SAT		Parents' Fair Beale Centre
23rd-24th		Years 9 & 10 Musical 'The Powder Monkeys' 19:30 / Ondaatje Hall			
25th THU		Year 7 Parents' Meeting 17:00 / Old Gym	25th THU		Year 10 Summer Garden Concert 18:00 / Blundell's Garden
26th FRI		School House Music Festival 14:00 / Ondaatje Hall			
26th FRI		Sensory Storytime for Under 5's with Mrs Clifford 10.00-11.00 / Tiverton Library	26th FRI		Reception Parents' Lunch 12:15-13:00 / Prep Hall
29th MON		Young Devon Chefs Emerging Talent Showcase - Gala Dinner 18:30 / Big School			

June 2023

5th MON		Blundell's Association Coffee Morning Blundell's Garden	8th-10th		Royal Cornwall Show Wadebridge
10th SAT		Old Blundellian Day Senior School	12th MON		Nurse Sports Day and Parent Picnic afternoon 14.00-15.30 / Prep school
14th-15th		Matilda the Musical Year 6 play 19:00 / Ondaatje Hall	16th FRI		Pre-Prep Showcase Assembly for parents Prep school
17th SAT		Year 12 Gorton House and Old House families invited for tea and cake Gorton House	17th SAT		Year 12 Parents' Academic Forum 12:00 / Ondaatje Hall
19th MON		Blundell's Association Tennis Club Night for Parents 18:30 - 20:30 / Senior School Tennis Courts	20th TUE		Music for a Summer's Evening' picnic concert 19:00 / Music Quad
21st WED		Summer Concert in the Marquee 18:00 / Prep School	22nd THU		Year 12 Parents' Meeting 17:00 / Senior School
23rd FRI		Blundell's Prep Speech Day Prep school	23rd FRI		Blundell's Festival 2023 16:00 / Big Field
26th MON		Sports Day Years 7 & 8 14:00	27th TUE		Shakespeare in the Garden Year 7 showcase 15:00 / Blundell's Garden
28th WED		The Drama Department presents 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', by William Shakespeare, performed by Year 8. 17:30 / Blundell's House Garden			
29th THU		Blundell's Prep Year 6 Leaver's Service & Balsa Presentation 15:30 / Blundell's Chapel	29th THU		Drinks for Year 8 Parents 17:30 / School House Private Side Garden
30th FRI		Old Blundellian Lunch for current OB Parents and Grandparents 11:30 / Beale centre			
30th FRI		Year 12 Parents and Pupils: 'Introduction to Westlake' 12:15 / Big School	30th FRI		Speech Day 14:30 / Big Field

July 2023

24th MON		OBCC v Sou'Westers Contact: OB Club
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September 2023

16th SAT		Thames Hare & Hounds Alumni Race Contact: Development Office	17th SUN		Blundell's Community Rugby Trophy Tournament and Family Day Big Field / Contact: OB Club
24th SUN		Reichwald Fives Trophy Tournament Contact: OB Club	24th SUN		One Day Equestrian Event Pontispool nr Taunton / Contact: Development Office
30th SAT		Charity Gala Dinner Contact: Development Office			

October 2023

11th WED		Winter Lunch, Speaker Caroline Burkie Literacy Foundation and Jack Maunder (FH 2008-15). Contact OB Club	14th SAT		Class of 1993, 30 Year Reunion. Contact: The Development Office.
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SPRING HIGHLIGHTS



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