



Blundell's



Diary

SPRING 2024



The Spring Term has flown by in a haze of rain and general greyness! Thank goodness that wet weather has seldom stopped us from doing anything and from Ten Tors training walks on Dartmoor to one of the muddier Russell's in its illustrious history, Blundellians showed a relentless determination to keep on going on.

It has been an immense term filled with great events. On the cultural front our annual Spring Concert brought us choral and orchestral music of the highest order. It was more than a concert, it was a showpiece of musicality and performance at Blundell's and it was a privilege to sit in Big School, mesmerised by the talent, skill and industry of pupils from the Prep and Senior Schools. That was followed up by a performance of Vivaldi's Gloria and Tippett's Spirituals in a beautifully lit chapel. It was a performance of exceptional quality, and it is no surprise that the Chapel Choir are being given the opportunity to sing Evensong in some magnificent settings. This term they have sung in Bath Abbey and in the Exeter University Chapel. In July they will sing Evensong in Westminster Abbey – more to come on that. The senior Octet achieved a Blundell's first by winning their way to the final round of the National Pro Corda Chamber Music competition to round off a very impressive term of music.

School House put on a performance of 'We Will Rock You' and we were well entertained as Ondaatje Hall Theatre was filled with iconic Queen music. There is some very serious musical theatre talent coming up through the school and we look forward to more on that front in time to come.

And then finally, on the sporting front, we were delighted to be able to send 7 teams to Rosslyn Park. I think we may well have been the only school to have so many teams and with 3 girls' teams on show. It certainly was the moment to add Girls' Rugby to our already strong rugby reputation. Sport is as much about participation as it is about results, and much as we like winning, this statistic makes me as proud as any trophy cabinet could: on any given Saturday this term, we managed to field (in the U18 age group alone) 6 senior netball teams, 4 senior boys' hockey teams, and 3 senior boys' football teams.

In terms of elite performance, the U13 boys' hockey team placed 3rd nationally for the second year running again picking up some impressive scalps along the way. To make it to the finals day in Nottingham is an achievement, to have done it two years running made us the only team to do so in the past two years. The XV-a-side rugby team were also the only side in the final 4 nationally to have been represented in the semi-final round a year ago. Last year we lost narrowly to Trinity, and this year we were well beaten by a strong Harrow team. To be in the final 4 two years running is exceptional when you see the scale of the competition.

And so, our little school in Devon continues the tradition of punching well above its weight. The ambition and skill of staff in guiding our talented and committed pupils is what makes Blundell's what and who we are, and I am full of admiration for both staff and pupils for what they are able to achieve. There is so much to be proud of.

BART WIELENGA

Spring Concert

The "Around the World in 80 Minutes" Spring Concert was an event of extraordinary scope and execution, so grand that to say it took the audience on a whirlwind global tour would be an understatement.

220 Blundell's musicians, the staging, narrative, and bespoke live videos by OB Jamie Whyte of extraordinary beauty turned Big School into an immersive exploration of our world. This was a feast for the senses with a hugely eclectic variety of stunning musical performances, all aided by the catering department's magnificent interval spread, complete with hot air balloon!

With 450 audience members and 220 student performers leaving with a buzz of excitement, the evening was a testament to the dynamism of Blundell's Music Department.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Freya, who has secured a place at Oxford for September 2024. Freya will be reading Mathematics at St Hilda's College.

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It was an amazing week for Blundell's Rugby. For the first time we took 7 teams, the maximum allowed, three girls' and four boys' teams. We were also one of only a small number of schools in the country to enter all 7 teams.

All our teams were very competitive, and it was great to see each team's support for each other between their own games. Friday was also a memorable day with Blundell's getting more livestream games than any other school.

All the pupils played brilliantly, and I was very proud of all of their efforts.

Mr T. Yapp, Director of Rugby

Rossllyn Park

RUGBY TOURNAMENT



THE U16 GIRLS' RUGBY TEAM started their Rosslyn Park tournament with a tough match against Dubai English Speaking College but showed promising signs. Despite a loss, they progressed to the Plate and won two games against Finborough and Rugby School, reaching the semi-finals before being narrowly knocked out by Seaford College. Their impressive performance was noteworthy, considering most of the team had only started playing rugby recently and were playing a year above their age group.

THE UNDER 14 GIRLS' RUGBY SEVENS TEAM had an enjoyable experience at Rosslyn Park, staying in unique accommodations and playing three matches against strong opponents. Although they were defeated by the Dubai champions, the opportunity to play on a main pitch and be live-streamed motivated them to perform their best, resulting in a victory in their second match. Despite a close loss in their final game, the overall experience was deemed fantastic for all involved.

THE U14 BOYS had a successful first day at Rosslyn Park, remaining undefeated with wins against Stanford, St Albans, and Collegiate, showcasing exceptional performances from players like Austin, Henry, and Matt VL. On day two, despite facing tough opposition like Denstone and Hymers College, they secured a notable win against Denstone, creating lasting memories for the team.

THE U16 BOYS had a strong start at Rosslyn Park, winning their initial matches decisively and securing victory against Giggleswick to advance from the group stage. Despite a disappointing loss to Bristol Free School in the last 64 elimination game, their achievement in winning their pool reflects positively on Blundell's rugby, signalling a promising future for the team.

THE U13 TEAM had a fulfilling experience at Rosslyn Park, benefitting greatly from the support of older teammates. Their games were live-streamed, and they showcased impressive teamwork, improving their defence and displaying intelligent aggression in their final match. Despite facing opponents from larger schools, they made significant progress and thoroughly enjoyed their time at the tournament.

THE UNDER 18 GIRLS arrived at Rosslyn Park with confidence after a term of training tournaments. Despite winning their first game against Bishop Wordsworth's and showing resilience in subsequent matches, they faced setbacks on the second day, unable to secure wins against Graveney School and Samuel Whitbread. Nevertheless, they demonstrated significant development under the guidance of their coaches and are looking forward to future opportunities.

THE U18 BOYS faced tough competition in the main Cup competition at Rosslyn Park but started strongly with a convincing win against Eton. Despite a setback against Sedbergh, they bounced back with dominant performances against Denstone and Myerscough College, securing a spot in the Plate competition. Day 2 presented further challenges, including battling against Norwich and Hampton in wet conditions, ultimately ending with a close loss to Brighton College. Despite this, the boys displayed resilience and punched above their weight throughout the tournament, showcasing their competitive spirit in schoolboy rugby.





ROMAN LEGION EXHIBITION

Our Classics pupils visited the British Museum to see the Roman Legion exhibition. Pupils had an excellent day exploring Egyptian, Greek, Asian and African cultures. A big thanks to Mrs Griffiths for organising the trip which was enjoyed by all!



YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Year 11 took part in the Young Enterprise programme, 'Launchpad', a team-based enterprise challenge, working alongside Young Enterprise Business Volunteers on a series of activities such as launching a fledging business, creating a brand identity, marketing strategy and balancing a budget. With 23 employers taking part as mentors, there was also opportunity for a networking session, for the students to learn more about a wide variety of pathways, how the employers arrived at the jobs they do now, and the valued skills, qualifications, and experience.



CAREERS EVENT

On Friday we were delighted to welcome 45 exhibitors (including local and international employers and universities) to our Blundell's School Careers Fair. In the region of 400 students attended, including students from Blundell's and our surrounding schools (Tiverton High School, Cullompton Community College, Uffculme School, Richard Huish College, Exeter College, The Maynard School, Wellington School and their supporters).



DURER COMPETITION

At the end of the Autumn term, Ed, Anastasiia and Freya competed in the International Durer competition, a Team Maths Olympiad with challenging problems designed to challenge top students across the world. Globally there were a total of 83 teams and our students did exceptionally well to secure 2nd place amongst the other 83 teams. They should all be very proud of their accomplishments.

SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

Many of our pupils performed brilliantly in the Senior Maths Challenge, and so were invited to the follow-on rounds; the Senior Kangaroo and Round 1 of the British Maths Olympiad. Well done to Jeremy, who attained a certificate of a Merit in the Kangaroo; placing him in the top 25% of all qualifiers. In the Maths Olympiad, Ed and Anastasiia attained distinctions and have qualified for the Math Olympiad Round 2.



ROUND 2 OF THE BRITISH MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD

Earlier this term we received the results for Round 2 of the British Mathematical Olympiad. Ed and Anastasiia qualified for this after scoring in the top 100 in the country of all pupils up the age of 18 in the first round of the British Maths Olympiad back in November. In Round 2, Anastasiia attained a certificate of merit, a fantastic result considering she is only in Year 10.

We've received great feedback from the students including how much they enjoyed the event, have learnt about jobs they didn't know anything about before, have increased their understanding of the knowledge and skills needed by employers, have increased in confidence in speaking with universities and employers and how the event has changed their thinking about their future plans.



MILLFIELD MATHS CHALLENGE

Earlier this term some of our pupils competed in the Millfield Team Maths Challenge. This maths competition is comprised of several rounds involving speed, relays, head to heads and group work. The teams were comprised of Year 10's and Year 11's. The first team involving, Ed, Anastasiia, Henry and Archie not only secured first place out of the other 9 schools but came first in every round in the competition! Congratulations go to the second team involving Daisy, Eunseo, Yifan and Arsenii who also gained 4th place. A fantastic result, well done to all the pupils who took part.

YEAR 7 MATHS COMPETITION

Blundell's were joined by Year 7s from Tiverton, Uffculme and Cullompton, as they competed for the top spot in our annual Year 7 Maths Challenge. With 3 rounds comprising of individual, group and athletic skills, students were asked to complete a variety of challenging maths problems. All students enjoyed the puzzles and were inspired by two different talks from our Sixth Form Mathematicians. Well done to Tiverton and Uffculme who took top spot in the group challenges and students from Blundell's, Cullompton and Tiverton securing the top 3 individual spots.

INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

Earlier this term, 146 students from Years 7 to 11 took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. We had another fantastic set of results, with a new school record of 11 Gold, 22 Silver and 39 Bronze Awards. Gold award winners were Ed, Henry, Anastasiia, Eunseo, Will, Elsie, Dario, Vera, Myrtle, Sujin and Henry. Ed was best in school, and he and Henry qualified for the Maclaurin Olympiad, with the other Gold winner qualifying for the Kangaroo follow on rounds.

Maths



PROFESSOR BRIAN COX TRIP

Before half term, fourteen students from across Years 10-13 travelled to Torquay's Princess Theatre to watch Professor Brian Cox, the English physicist and musician, deliver his sell-out Horizons lecture. Although the theatre seated 1500, the students had fantastic seats right at the front that enabled them to feel that they could have been receiving a private lecture from the television and radio personality. Professor Cox used a stunning cinematic backdrop behind him to illustrate many subjects such as the nature of time and space, what happens when you cross over the event horizon in a black hole and the likelihood of other intelligent species being out there in the vastness of the universe. Although a significant proportion of the theatre was left scratching heads trying to fathom some of the complexity of the cutting-edge theories being described, many of our students kept up for the full two and a half hours of heavy-duty content. As Professor Cox noted several times, many tens of hours of university lectures were being condensed into bitesize chunks, and whilst we could all wonder at the complexity, full understanding would only ever come with more detailed learning and study over time.



A LEVEL BIOLOGY PRACTICAL

Our Year 13 A level Biologists conducted a university level procedure to genetically modify E. coli bacteria to make them fluoresce. This involved using plasmid vectors with genes originally isolated from jellyfish for green and blue fluorescence protein. The pupils also controlled the expression of this gene in the transformed bacteria by using the reagent Isopropyl-β-D-thiogalactopyranoside, which acts on the lac operon.



SCIENCE OLYMPIADS

The British Physics Olympiad team at the University of Oxford have been busy keeping our students challenged throughout this term. The highlight was receiving results for the toughest challenge, known as the British Physics Olympiad Round 1. Aimed at Year 13, pupils across Years 11-13 sat this two and a half hour marathon at the end of last term and we were pleased to see Mengyan in Year 13 and Ed in Year 11 achieve Gold awards placing them amongst the top 16% of the best physicists in the country. Beyond this, five further competitions in astronomy and physics took place across Years 10-13, with over 26 students taking part in at least one of the competitions. All students gave their all to tackle the really demanding questions and should all be congratulated for taking part.



BATH UNIVERSITY SPORTS TRAINING VILLAGE

On 23rd February the Phoenix Society and sport scholars went on a trip to Bath University Sports Training Village. Students participated in field testing, using equipment such as speed gates to measure their pace and strength. Students got to experience sports science in action with a visit to a lab to do a VO2 max test on a treadmill, using software to measure heart rate and oxygen levels. We took a tour of athlete facilities, including those used by elite and GB athletes, and went to a lecture on the processes and research around altitude training. It was a fascinating day, and a great time was had by all!



SIDMOUTH OBSERVATORY TRIP

Earlier this term, 17 students from across Years 9-13 braved the sub-zero temperatures to visit the Norman Lockyer Observatory in Sidmouth. This astronomy observation site perched high on a hill above the town has had a fascinating past dating back to the 1900s. Our students were welcomed by two members of the society who gave a short talk about the life of Sir Norman Lockyer and the history of the observatory. After the talk the students had the opportunity to get to know the night sky in their planetarium. With a thorough understanding of where particular constellations and important stars lay in the sky and how the night sky varies depending on where you observe it from, the students then made their way outside to tour the three large refractor telescopes and the more modern 20" reflector telescopes that the observatory has on site. Our students had their eyes opened to the wide range of scientific opportunity in astronomy and all seemed to take their own piece of interest away from the visit. A big thanks to Mr Clayton and Dr Alapini-Odonlade for giving up their time to show us around.



BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

The best 15,000 students from 900 schools worldwide took part in this year's British Biology Olympiad. This is the hardest and most prestigious school biology competition. The top 5% gained Gold, 10% Silver and 15% Bronze with only 34% of the schools having a Gold medal winner.

A big well done to Amelia, Gemma and Elliott who achieved Gold, Jodie and Nicholas who achieved Silver and Sophia, Georgia, Lele and Archie who achieved Bronze.

Science



These stunning pieces are all being entered into the Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show.

It is a free, open submission exhibition for young artists aged 4-19 years studying in the UK. The project is generously supported by Robin Hambro, a passionate advocate for the importance of access to art, and the benefits of encouraging the arts, for children and young people. We have entered a number of our students every year since 2016 with this year being a particularly strong representation of the outstanding work from the Blundell's Art School. We wish all our entries the very best of luck.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY TRIP TO LONDON

Earlier this term our 6th form Design & Technology students enjoyed an action-packed day in London. They visited the Design Museum, an architectural study of the Royal Albert Hall and a visit to the V&A Museum. They even managed to squeeze in a delicious Wagamama lunch!

Earlier this term our Product Design A-level pupils enjoyed an incredible day at the JCB & Morgan Visitor Experience.

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR STEM & DT SCHOLARS

Our STEM & DT Scholars along with our budding automotive engineers and car enthusiasts, had an amazing opportunity to talk to Martin Whitaker, Ben Mellors and Pierre Herrenschildt to discuss their experience in Motor Sport. They brought with them a 914 'Restomod' which has been completely re-designed and engineered by Ben and his family business into a light-weight, Carbon Fibre reinforced, modification of the original.

Drama Trips



Our Drama scholars visited Exeter Northcott to watch the The Paperbirds new production 'Feel Me' and were fortunate enough to participate in a workshop run by co-founder of the company Kylie Perry. Students explored the key devising techniques and themes of the show, including choreography and visual vernacular, non-verbal storytelling, and performance / non-performance techniques. A fantastic and rewarding opportunity enjoyed by all.



Twenty students spent their exeat weekend exploring the sights, sounds and tastes of London's West End. They enjoyed four brilliant shows: Guys And Dolls Bridge Theatre, The Play That Goes Wrong by Mischief Comedy, Kin by Gecko Theatre and Motive and The Cue at Noël Coward Theatre. The students also enjoyed a lively backstage tour of the newly refurbished Theatre Royal and retraced the steps of one of London's most infamous villains, taking the opportunity to enjoy a pie along the way!



Our Year 10 & 11 GCSE Drama students, along with Year 9 Drama scholars, visited The Princess Theatre in Torquay to see a production of the Olivier and Tony Award Winning musical, Blood Brothers. A fantastic opportunity to see their set text come to life on stage.

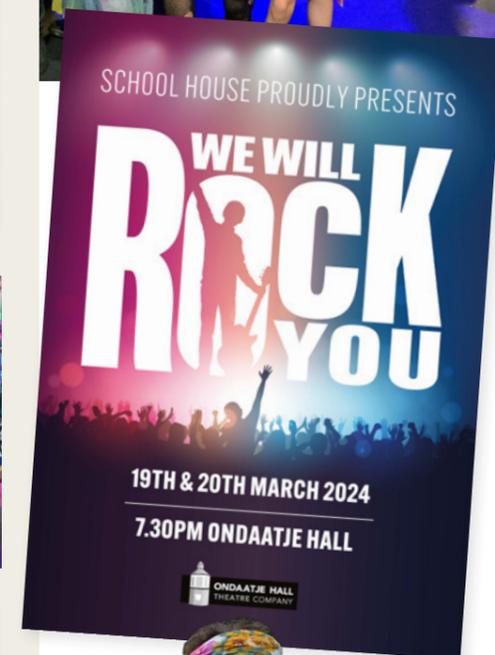


Speech & Drama Exams



To round off the Spring term, the cast of 'We Will Rock You' delivered two confident and masterful performances to a full house. They stepped out of their comfort zone and certainly took the challenge head on, with energy and unwavering commitment. Well done to all our incredible cast and staff!

The Cast were joined by the West End's Ian McIntosh for a workshop ahead of their performances. The cast were put through their paces with Ian who recently played the lead of Galileo in 'We Will Rock You' on the West End.



Full Colours

Congratulations to Meggie on being awarded Full Colours for Art.



Congratulations to Harry and Sophia on being awarded Full Colours for Drama.



Congratulations

to Mandy in Year 12 who has been awarded the Jenny Seagrove certificate of excellence for her Grade 8 Reading for Performance examination.



CHAMBER CHOIR EVENSONG AT BATH ABBEY

The Blundell's Chamber Choir had the wonderful opportunity to perform at the prestigious Bath Abbey on Tuesday, 9th January.

The evening was filled with enchanting music and spiritual reflection during Evensong in this magnificent building and its wonderful acoustics. The program included a mesmerising rendition of Psalm 47 by Peter Hurford OB, along with soul-stirring Canticles: Evening Service in E flat Major, No 2, composed by Charles Wood. The highlight of the evening was arguably the performance of the anthem, 'Alleluia! A New Work is Come on Hand' by Ghislaine Reece-Trapp. The choir's rendition of this beautiful piece left the congregation with a lasting impression and the choir received well-deserved praise for their outstanding performance. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the members of Blundell's Chamber Choir for their dedication and hard work.



YEAR 10 AND 12 SCHOLARS' CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

At the end of Mr Olive's Brew Monday day of wellbeing, in the soft glow of candlelight, our Year 10 and 12 Music Scholars graced us with a Candlelight Concert of exceptional calibre.

Their artistry, showcased under the soft glow of hundreds of candles, created an evening of refined musical performances which was a moment of calmness in the busyness of the start of term.

We extend our sincere thanks to the parents, colleagues and friends who joined us, contributing to the success of this intimate celebration. Your support propels our students' passion for music and artistic expression.

The talent displayed by our Music Scholars was truly remarkable, and we look forward to more opportunities to share their gifts with the wider Blundell's community.



CHORAL CONCERT

The senior choir delivered a remarkable performance of Vivaldi's Gloria and Tippett's 'Five Spirituals' in a candlelit chapel, showcasing dedication and faultless commitment from the pupils during rehearsals and the concert.

Accompanied by an orchestra including school instrumental teachers and university students, the concert featured ten pupil soloists across different year groups, with special recognition for first-time soloists.

Gratitude was extended to all involved, including staff, singing teachers, and Dr Leaman for his educational talk, with praise for the pupils' exceptional effort and the continual elevation of singing standards at Blundell's.



BLUNDELL'S CHOIRS CD RECORDING

Earlier this term the Blundell's Senior Choirs joined together in the brilliant acoustics of St. Andrew's Church to record a Christmas CD.

For many of the pupils, this was their first experience of a live recording session, and they should be proud of the superb effort and concentration demonstrated throughout the afternoon.

The recording featured pieces from our Carol Service, and it's wonderful that this music will be enjoyed by all for many years to come.

My huge congratulations to all the pupils for their enthusiasm behind the project and fantastic singing on the day, and a particular thank you to Dr. Leaman and Mr. Bowley for their sound engineering expertise. We aim to release the album later this year and very much look forward to sharing it with the Blundell's community.



YEAR 12 AND 13 MUSIC SCHOLARS: PERROTT HILL PREP SCHOOL VISIT

Blundell's has maintained a close relationship with Perrott Hill Prep School in recent years.

This week, we took a group of Year 12 and 13 boys to visit, with a particular focus on encouraging boys' singing. For Chester and Toby, Year 13, this was a particularly poignant moment as they revisited their old school and assisted the pupils in learning and singing various parts. After a 30-minute workshop, our pupils staged a short concert, which featured several close harmony arrangements, as well as solo performances from Jack, Finn, and Toby. The afternoon concluded with a joint performance of 'Drunken Sailor,' and it was great to see the Perrott Hill boys singing out confidently. Well done to all the pupils who took part, helping to inspire a new wave of singers at Perrott Hill, some of whom we may yet see at Blundell's in the future."



BLUNDELL'S CANTORUM AND CHORISTERS EVENSONG

Cantorum and the Years 4-8 Chapel Choir travelled to Exeter, where we were delighted to have been invited to sing alongside the Exeter University Chapel Choir. The full sound of the combined forces was truly spectacular, especially in the generous acoustics of the Chapel, and it was a joy to see pupils performing at such a high level together, across both our Prep and Senior Schools. The music included canticles by Charles Stanford and the beautiful spiritual 'Steal Away' by Tippett, which featured a brilliant soprano solo sung by Summer in Year 10. Our partnership with the University Choir, directed by Blundell's singing teacher Mr Michael Graham, continues to flourish, and shows our pupils a pathway for singing beyond school. On Wednesday, members of all the choirs congratulated Jack, Year 13, on being awarded a choral scholarship position at the University. Our thanks must go to all the pupils who took part in the service for their effort and hard work, as well as our singing teachers, Mr Graham and Mr Jeffrey, for continuing to inspire and grow our choral provision at Blundell's.

*Congratulations to:
Jemima & Maria (Year 12)
Daisy, Finn, Chester, Amelia,
Jack, & Guy (Year 13)*

Pro Corda Accolade

We are delighted to share the remarkable achievement of our Sixth Form Telemann Octet at the Pro Corda National Chamber Music Festival 2024. This prestigious event, held in Central London, concluded on Sunday with an intensely exciting day filled with the finest chamber music performances from across the country in the Champions Final. The Telemann Octet, representing Blundell's among the elite ensembles nationwide, demonstrated exceptional musicality, teamwork, and dedication.

The festival, known for showcasing the best in young musical talent, was the largest in its history, bringing together a diverse array of ensembles in a celebration of musical excellence.



Our students' participation and success in such a competitive and high-profile event underscore the outstanding level of talent and commitment within our Music Department. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the members of the Telemann Octet for their hard-earned success. Their ability to work together

harmoniously as young musicians not only brought them accolades but also serves as an inspiring testament to the power of music in fostering collaboration, dedication, and hope for the future.

We would also like to express our profound appreciation to the pupils for their hard work and to all who supported them in this journey. Their achievements affirm the vibrant and thriving culture of musical excellence at our school and set a high standard for future participants.

This accolade is a testament to the bright future of chamber music and the promising path ahead for our young musicians. We look forward to their continued success and the ongoing enrichment of our musical community.

We're excited to share the wonderful experience our Year 9 and 10 students had on February 21st at The Bristol Hippodrome, where they were treated to the spellbinding performance of **Wicked: The Musical**.

Based on Gregory Maguire's acclaimed novel, **Wicked** offers a captivating reinterpretation of the beloved characters from L. Frank Baum's classic tale, exploring the complex friendship between Glinda The Good and the Wicked Witch of the West. Our students were enthralled by the show's ability to seamlessly blend humour with themes of friendship, acceptance, and resilience, as well as its exploration of important issues such as racial and disability discrimination. The visually stunning staging and set design, along with the Steampunk-inspired costumes, added an extra layer of magic to the production, transporting the audience into the vibrant technicolour world of Oz. From the powerful rendition of 'Defying Gravity' to the heartwarming moments between the two leads, our students were fully immersed in the theatrical experience. It was an afternoon overflowing with joy, emotion, and countless unforgettable moments, as our students discovered the timeless appeal of this modern classic.



Full Colours

Congratulations to Finn and Jack on being awarded Full Colours for Music.



SPRING 24

Equestrian



Blundell's had teams out at the NSEA Show Jumping qualifiers at Pontispool. The top placing team was the intermediate team consisting of Elizabeth, Jessica, Emma and Daisy coming 5th in their class. The top placed individual rider was Elizabeth.

Fives



Our team have displayed some quality fives this term. Each player should be very proud of how they have performed and conducted themselves on and off the court.

Captains



Hockey

The U13 Hockey boys had an exciting day at the Nottingham Hockey Centre. A narrow 3-4 loss to event champions, Whitgift, in the semi final was tough to take. However, the boys bounced back to win the third place playoff and return to Devon as 3rd in the Nation. A huge well done!



Netball

We are very proud of how our girls have progressed this term. We've seen passion, determination and extraordinary effort from everyone. It's been great to see the continued popularity for netball across the board, with at least 2 or 3 teams playing from each year group each weekend, adding onto our 6 senior teams! It's been so lovely to see the vast participation over the term, with just under 130 matches played & approximately 2,490 goals scored over all teams (fixtures & tournaments), it been a pretty successful season. Throughout the season, even when the girls have experienced highs and lows, the way they have conducted themselves has been magnificent. Thank you to all pupils & staff for making it such an enjoyable season.

Meg Conabear



7s

This has been arguably our most successful 7s seasons, we've consistently put out three girls' teams at U14, U16 and U18, the U18's won the Millfield 7s and were the west of England plate winners. The U14 boys also won the plate at the west of England 7s. The U18 boys went unbeaten at Millfield, finished runners up at the Christ Brecon 7s they also won the Shield at the west of England 7s and won their group at the prestigious Surrey 7s.



Cricket

One step closer to Lords.

On the 14th March our U13 girls indoor cricket team had a perfect day winning all matches to be crowned Devon champions. In the final they reached 109 runs, their highest score of the day and won convincingly with Bryony taking 5 wickets. It was a day of all round performances with every player contributing. Dean Headley, Director of Cricket said 'the team has a strength in depth and all the players pull their weight. They have worked hard at their tactics and deserve all the credit that comes their way'. They will now go to the southwest finals on April 23rd at the university of the West of England.



Football

The results might not have gone our way this season, but the footballers had an enjoyable term. The first team was superbly led by Guy B, the highlight was the 4-3-win v Exeter with four spectacular goals. The Nicholas Cole for best Year 12 player went to Riley N. This season we revived the local derby match v Tiverton High School. This included the inaugural girls football match for our Year 9 and 10 girls - we hope to increase the number of girls' fixtures next season. We are looking forward to our tour to Madrid in October 2024 and hopefully some more wins next season.



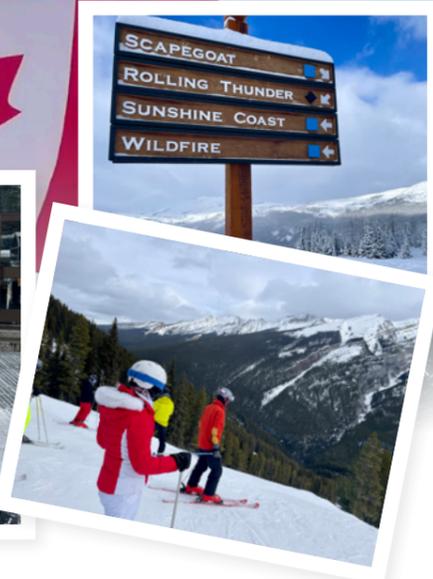
Full Colours

Congratulations to Chris, Hector, Jonah, Archie and Jack on being awarded Full Colours for Hockey, to Jack and Will on being awarded Full Colours for Rugby, and to Sophie for Netball.



Ski Trip

A group of 26 pupils wrapped up the Spring term on the breathtaking slopes of Banff, Canada!



40 Years

The International Committee held a specially prepared anniversary lunch to celebrate 40 years of Japanese students at Blundell's. Our Japanese students and special guests, along with Kokoro, an outstanding international pupil and proud Blundellian, who left us last year to study at her chosen university. A wonderful occasion and a chance to celebrate our rich cultural diversity at Blundell's.



Chinese New Year

At the end of the first half of Spring Term, it was time to celebrate the Chinese New Year! There was an evening of celebrations where all boarders attended and played traditional games, tried some calligraphy, watched performances and sang along together. It was a wonderful atmosphere and very well attended. Staff and students also competed in the dragon rowing competition!



Burns Night

Year 12 had an excellent time at the Burns Night Dinner in January. After a wonderful meal prepared by our catering team, the dance floor was cleared so the Ceilidh could begin.

Ten Tors

Training for Ten Tors is well and truly underway for our 45-mile teams. Conditions at the start were a little grim with a constant drizzle, fortunately this eased after a couple of hours, leaving good clear conditions. The teams made good progress completing the 24 kilometres including a couple of short breaks in 6 hours. The conditions underfoot were particularly challenging, energy sapping on the long uphill segments and slippery on the way down. These conditions meant the ground was not covered as quickly as predicted, and apart from a slight navigation error by one of the teams, they all made good progress and should be justifiably proud of their efforts.



Holi Festival

Blundell's celebrated the Indian Holi Festival of colours and the coming of spring with our own powder battle filled with coloured flour and music! Everyone had great fun and enjoyed a curry lunch provided by our fantastic Head Chef!



Clay Pigeon

Blundell's Clay Pigeon Shooting team have been busy in the Spring Term with visits to Harrow and Sherborne School for some fantastic fixtures. Against some tough opposition, our teams have shot well and have gone from strength to strength.



Tiverton Community Partnerships Meeting

It was wonderful to welcome Tiverton High School to our Garden Cabin in January in the glorious sunshine! New friends were made, and delicious cakes and refreshments were enjoyed as we continue to work together as part of our community partnerships programme.



Brew Monday



..... Spring Term Primary School visit:

At the end of January, Two Moors Primary School's Year 6 students visited for drama workshops based on 'Goodnight Mister Tom', led by the Drama Department and A Level Drama students. They also participated in navigation exercises led by CCF Cadets, enjoyed a Burns Night themed lunch, learned about boarding life, played tag rugby, showcasing enthusiasm and participation throughout.

In February Wilcombe's Primary School's Year 5 pupils revisited for a Design and Technology session after their previous visit for Geography. They engaged in activities exploring composite materials and crafted Inca-inspired coasters with wool and resin, guided by Sixth Form DT STEM Scholars. They enjoyed a traditional roast lunch, learned about Blundellian life, participated in cricket, and ended the day with doughnuts!

In March, Years 4 & 5 pupils from Bolham Primary School visited us and participated in English workshops focusing on Roald Dahl characters, analysing Matilda's reading habits and creating their own character descriptions. The day also included a World Book Day themed lunch and various activities, showcasing their enthusiasm and engagement.

TWO MOORS



WILCOMBE



BOLHAM



Pop-up shop

Extra £613 raised!

Our charity pop-up shop was a huge success. The representative from CHAT managed to take away a full suitcase and full bag of coats and warm clothes for those sleeping on the streets during the severely cold weather. We made an extra £613.35 in the sales of items that will be going straight to the charity alongside our home clothes day donations too. Thank you to those who donated and came to support the pop-up shop.

SCHOOL HOUSE

Dinner Parties

£1,500 raised!

A grand total of £1,500 was raised by the School House Dinner Parties for the schools' charities. A big thank you to our talented Head Chef, Mr Biswas, for working with our pupils to create these wonderful events and delicious food, and of course, to all our wonderful Year 7 parents for the incredibly generous donations. Congratulations to our pupils and their tutors for putting on these wonderful dinner parties.



Well done to all the tutor groups who did an amazing job at cooking and entertaining their families.

Ceilidh

Many thanks to all who came to the Charity Ceilidh and made it such a success. We enjoyed fantastic music and were led through dances by experienced caller from the band Hobsons Choice which included Blundell's violin teacher Alexandra Ennis. All proceeds raised will be donated to local charity Hospiscare who are one of the School charities.



Spring Garden Open Day



It was busy in the Blundell's Garden for our Spring Open Day.



We hosted Blundell's Prep, Bolham Primary, Two Moors Primary, Heathcoat Primary School, and some Blundell's Grandparents to our Spring Garden Open Day.

The local primary school visitors transformed into budding gardeners and took part in some fun Easter activities. To round off the fun-filled day, Blundell's Grandparents, including some Old Blundellian's were given a tour of the garden and took part in a quiz.

In the Garden Cabin, there were plenty of delicious treats throughout the day for our visitors and for Blundell's students and staff to enjoy too!



THE RUSSELL

The Results

Xavier is fully deserving of the Berry Barker Ballance trophy.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| School House (Boys Race) | Spencer SH Year 8 |
| School House (Girls Race) | Amelia SH Year 8 |
| Junior Boys (Year 9 & 10) | Lewis PG Year 10 |
| Junior Girls (Year 9 & 10) | Sophie GH Year 10 |
| Senior Boys (Year 11, 12 & 13) | Gemma GH Year 13 |
| Senior Girls (Year 11, 12 & 13) | Zinzan OH Year 11 |
| Junior Boys House Team | Petergate |
| Junior Girls House Team | North Close |
| Senior Boys House Team | Old House |
| Senior Girls House Team | Gorton House |
| Boys Cumulative House Points | Old House |
| Girls Cumulative House Points | Gorton House |



Berry Barker Ballance Cup

This year the trophy goes to Xavier, a student who has performed consistently in all three of the Russell races this year. Their 3rd and a 6th place in the practice races was followed up with an excellent 3rd place in the main race on Saturday. This year they finished more than 7 minutes up on their time from 2023 which, given the weather and ground conditions this year shows remarkable progress in their fitness and running.



Letter from the Director of Development



(L-R) Katie Kogler, Linda Bulpin and Tom Cowle

My first term as Director of Development has been great fun, and it's gone quickly! I have enjoyed getting out and about meeting with lots of Old Blundellians and members of the school community over the past few months.

The Annual Fund was launched in March and will run through to the end of the Summer Term, it's a great initiative that allows pupils to ask for things that they feel will improve the experience of being at Blundell's. Please do take a look on the next page at the projects that the Heads of School have selected and if you can donate, please follow this [link](#). We have also established a senior school parent committee to help us create more events

for the whole school community to enjoy, this will include a Winter Ball in November and a Summer Ball the day after Speech Day (2025). My thanks to those who have joined the committee.

I look forward to seeing many OB's at the London community drinks evening at The Department Store on May 9th.

For more information on these events;

Email: devoffice@blundells.org

If you would like to get in touch or if you'd like to plan a reunion, then please let me know. We are here to support.

Email: t.cowle@blundells.org

Annual Fund

PROJECTS 2024

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

INDOOR HOCKEY WOODEN BOARDS

"The new hockey boards will offer the chance to develop a wider range of hockey skills by utilising different training drills during sessions, while also offering the opportunity for more hockey teams to play indoors during the hockey season as a result of the improved equipment. This will ultimately allow more pupils to train at one time and increase their adeptness at the game."

Jack and Georgia, Heads of School



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

OLD BLUNDELLIANS

Jamie Croggon (FH 1980-85)

Q: Jamie, could you tell us about your background and your time at Blundell's?

A: Sure! I'm Jamie, and I attended Blundell's from 1980-85. I was an "FH boy," and have great memories of skateboarding down the dog-run (the driveway in front of FH) and playing guitar in a band.

Q: Tell us about your career in product design.

A: I've been fortunate to work with some amazing brands over the years, including Dyson and Gillette. I am now Director of Advanced Development at SharkNinja.

Q: How did you end up back at Blundell's?

A: I recently had the opportunity to return to Blundell's for a day to work with the

Design and Technology students. It was a great chance for me to share my experiences and offer feedback. I was very impressed with the students and the quality of the work they are producing.

Q: How did you conclude your visit to Blundell's?

A: I gave a talk to sixth formers about pursuing a career in product design. I shared some of my favourite projects and emphasised the importance of finding one's purpose in life, drawing on my own experiences and the foundation I received during my time at school.

Interested in coming back to share your experiences?

Email: t.cowle@blundells.org



“

I shared some of my favourite projects and emphasised the importance of finding one's purpose in life.

Jamie Croggon

“

I have Terry Barwell for instilling a love of the game at Blundell's and like to think that what I do now is because of him.

Lachlan Dunbar

Lachlan 'Jok' Dunbar (SH 1980-84)

'After leaving Blundells I worked in the art auction business for a number of years before travelling and on my return started a career in hospitality. I ran several well-known bars and restaurants and worked for various Brewers.

After I married Oriele in 1998 my wife's career and business took off and I became a house husband to our three boys. I founded and ran a small business teaching mini rugby for seven years as

well as teaching karate for the London School of karate. I am now Chair of playing for Middlesex rugby looking after men's, women's, boys and girls county rugby teams as well as coaching age grade rugby at my local club.

I have Terry Barwell for instilling a love of the game at Blundells and like to think that what I do now is because of him. Oh, and I'm also Chair of Governors at a local primary school in West London.'



BASKETBALL HOOPS AND BACK BOARDS

"The new basketball hoops will provide the ever-growing basketball team with more advanced equipment, supporting their incredible talents and advancing their skills further. This will also provide a chance for more home games, which are hugely popular and supported within Blundell's."

Jack and Georgia, Heads of School

BIODIVERSITY TRAIL

"The biodiversity trail will provide both a relaxing and learning opportunity throughout the school day. Whether it is a break from lessons or a Wednesday afternoon activity, this trail will allow more of our Blundell's community to embrace the nature that surrounds us."

Jack and Georgia, Heads of School



PREP SCHOOL - NURSERY PLAYGROUND PLAY AREA

"I wanted to write and let you know about a new project which will further add to our Nursery outdoor area. We would like to construct a 'Learning Lounge' so that our youngest pupils can continue their outdoor creative play come rain or shine."

Andy Southgate, Head Master of Blundell's Preparatory School

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:

[Senior School](#) [Prep School](#)

Past Events OB Winter Lunches

As a group of friends who have met up regularly at the OB Winter Lunches. Particular highlights of past lunches were Annabel Venning, a granddaughter of a pre-war OB, who gave us a fascinating talk about her book "To War with the Walkers" and Ben Collins, aka The Stig.

The lunches provide a link to other folk from the Blundell's Community, some of whom we only see at the Winter Lunches, and an opportunity of hearing their news.

Needless to say, we look forward to October and the new season of OB Winter Lunches.

Gloria, Pat, Vicky & Sian



Blundell's Magpies London Lunch 05/03/24

Arranged by Linda and David Bentata, this 17th in the series was enjoyably successful, well attended and - as usual - meticulously organised. Bart and Barry gave speeches on the present situation at the School, which allowed OBs to form an encouraging impression of energy and achievement in many areas. Each was presented with an inscribed slate as a memento of the occasion.

Attended by: Bart Wielenga (Headmaster), Barry Dawe (Head of Outdoor Pursuits), Tom Cowle (W 1991-96) (recently appointed Director of Development), Linda and David Bentata (FH 1951-56) - Chair, Gilly and Hugo Brooke (NC 1949-54), David Condy (P 1957-62), Cdr Martin Knapp (OH 1957-62), David Kyd (NC 1954-58), Tim Motion (SH 1950-54), Alec Rainey (FH 1952-57), Dr David Rutter (FH 1963-67), George Tilley (FH 1959-61), Anthony Ward (FH 1965-69), Peter Ward (FH 1959-64), Janet Wooff nee Frankpitt (GH 1980-82) (OB Club Secretary) and Mark Wooff (M 1977-82).

Peter Ward FH 1959-64

Save the Date OB Day Saturday 22/06/24



It is an honour and delight to be President of OB Day 2024 and I am looking forward to it very much. Contact with old school friends has ramped up already, which is another demonstration of why the OB events matter - they are great in themselves but are also a catalyst for messaging and meeting the people you have been meaning to for ages... I hope it is the same for you.



Together with Preacher, Andrew Berrow and lesson Reader Peter Price (W 1958-63), it will be great to be part of a day packed with opportunities to meet new friends as well as old; to relive memories of school days and to learn about those of today's Blundellians; to enjoy good food and good conversation. I very much hope to see you there. In the meantime, take your phone out of your pocket, get in touch with your old friends and arrange to join us in June!

Olivia Pinkney nee Richards (GH 1986-1988).

For further information, including the programme and to purchase tickets for OB Day please [click here](#).

Russell Run 2024

One of the lasting memories of the 2024 Russell race will be the sheer amount of rain that fell in the preceding weeks and therefore the quantities of mud around the course. The two practice events which utilised 10-acre, Parry Woods and Amory were run in clear conditions over very heavy, soggy ground. The day of the main Russell saw pretty much every season show its face during the afternoon! Lovely sunshine, sleet, hail and heavy rain. This did not diminish spirits though and there was a lot of smiles and fun being had in the mud.



We had over 40 parents and Old Blundellians run the Russell in either the full Russell (8.1km) or Fun Run (3.8km). Congratulations to everyone that took part. 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.



Weddings

Congratulations to:

Jack Stuart (FH 2005-11) and Bella Pyne (NC 2008-15) who got married in June 2023. Celebrations continued at their marquee reception with numerous other Old Blundellian's in attendance.



Births

Congratulations to:

• Hatty Johnson (nee Hosegood NC 2002-09) & Rory Johnson welcomed Archie Bruce Stanley on 28th August 2023.
• Sophie Devoto (nee Birchmore GH 2004-11) & Ollie Devoto welcomed Archie Jonathan on 22nd September 2023.
• Hatty Parker (nee Goody GH 2008-10) & Alex Parker welcomed Imogen Victoria Edwina on 25th November 2023.



Thank you to all of those who updated us on their recent news. If you would like to let us know about any specific achievements, births, deaths, or marriages, then please contact [Katie and Linda in the Development Office](#).

Engagement

Congratulations to:

Olivia See (NC 2007-14) and Joe Grundy 7th July 2023 with wedding proposed 2025.

"My favourite thing to do in summer is go out into the wheat fields with Joe and the dogs and have a picnic in the back of Joe's truck in the sun and so that is what we did one evening and to my total surprise Joe got down on one knee and proposed. It happened to be an evening when it was 27 degrees and beautiful, not a cloud in the sky!"

We have spent the last year renovating our old 1809 farmhouse which we now have moved into with the two doggies. As we have worked so hard on that over the last year, we have decided to get married in 2025".



Announcements

Death Notifications

Congratulations to:

Max Neusinger (FH 2005-10) and Megan Butler who got married in October 2023 at St. Audries Park, Somerset.

Quite a few Old Blundellian's joined in the celebrations and included:

- Max's father (M 1968-73)
Peter Neusinger
- Turf Neusinger (M 1970-74)
- Mark Neusinger (M 1972-75)
- Finn Neusinger (OH 2010-15)
- Eve Neusinger (NC 2013-16)
- Jack Stuart (FH 2005-11)
- Tom Stuart (FH 2006-11)
- Bella Stuart (NC 2008-15)
- Kevin Pilgram (M 1988-93)
- Jimbo Falkner (FH 1992-97)
- Stuart Munro (M 1968-73)
- Charlie Howee (FH 2005-10)

08.10.23	Pearce, Richard Walter Trevor	FH 1957-61
09.12.23	Nicholson, Rob	OH 1952-57
11.12.23	Bartlett, Michael Patrick Christopher	W 1949-52
19.12.23	Barr, Alastair George Flett	W 1952-56
26.12.23	Fox, Richard. Former staff, (Maths)	1960-64
07.01.24	Northcott, Richard 'Francis'	NC 1960-64
07.01.24	Rescorle, Richard John	SH 1987-92
08.01.24	Twigge-Molecey, Dr Christopher (Kit)	P 1960-65
11.01.24	Hutchings, William 'John' Keith	M 1949-53
13.01.24	Burgess, Peter John Oakley	M 1947-51
23.01.24	Pool, Peter Iain 'Pip'	W 1960-63
24.01.24	Corden, Barrie. Former staff (Drama)	
26.01.24	Davies, Richard (Dick)	P 1944-47
27.01.24	Wheeler, Malcolm 'Graham' (NB: his son died in June 2004)	SH 1949-53
31.01.24	Lamb, Anthony	FH 1951-56
07.02.24	Russell, John	SH 1954-57
17.02.24	Davidson, Chris	FH 1947-50
22.02.24	Frappell, Jonathan	SH 1967-71

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

April

Thu 18th	18:00-20:00	Blundell's Community Drinks, Cornwall. The Alverton Hotel, Truro. RSVP or contact devoffice@blundells.org .		Social
Sat 20th		OB Fives v School. Contact: obclub@obclub.co.uk		
Sun 21st	10:00	Blundell's Cricket Open Day. Contact: devoffice@blundells.org .	Somerset County Cricket Ground	Social
Sat 27th	12.15	Year 9 Parents Academic Forum	Ondaatje Hall	Academic
Sat 27th	19:00	Sir Francis Popham Society Dinner. Contact: devoffice@blundells.org	Beale Centre	Social
Mon 29th	18.30	Blundell's Parents Association Social Tennis Evening	Tennis Courts	Social

May

Wed 1st	10:00-11:00	Mums' Tennis Coffee Morning FOBS. Contact Janet: obclub@obclub.co.uk		
Thu 9th	12:00	1604 Society Lunch, Contact: devoffice@blundells.org	TBC	Social
Thu 9th	18:00-20:00	Blundell's Community Drinks, London. RSVP or contact: devoffice@blundells.org	Upstairs, The Department Store	Social
Fri 10 - Sun 12th		Ten Tors	Dartmoor	Sports
Fri 10th	18:00	Year 10 Summer concert	Blundell's Garden	Music
Wed 15th	19:00-21:00	'You're not in this alone' - A PSHE Discussion Evening for Parents	Beale Centre	Academic
Thu 16th	14:00-16:00	Devon County Show - Drinks Reception for parents, OB's and Govereners	Westpoint	Social
Tue 21st	19:30	Year 9 and 10 Play: 'The Visit' by Fredrich Durrenmatt	Ondaatje Hall	Drama
Thu 23rd	17:00	Year 7 Parents' Meeting	Old Gym	Academic
Thu 23rd	15:00-17:00	Garden VIP Donor Garden Cream Tea. Contact: devoffice@blundells.org	Blundell's Garden	Social
Fri 24th	14:00	School House Music Festival	Ondaatje Hall	Music

June

Mon 10th	18:30-20:00	Blundell's Association Parents' Social Tennis Evening	Tennis Courts	Social
Sat 15th	12:15	Year 12 Parents' Academic Forum	Ondaatje Hall	Academic
Sat 22nd		Old Blundellian Day	Senior School	Social
Sat 22nd	12:30	Reception for Year 12 Families		Academic
Thu 27th	17:00	Year 12 Parents' Meeting	Senior School	Academic
Fri 28th	12:00	Year 8 perform 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by William Shakespeare	Blundell's House	Theatre
Fri 28th	12:30	Shakespeare in the Garden: A Year 7 English Showcase of Shakespearean Adaptions	School House Patch	Theatre
Fri 28th	15:00-19:00	Blundells Fest - Music. Arts. Fun. Festival for all pupils, staff, OBs, families and the wider Blundell's Community	Big Field	Social

July

Fri 5th	14:30	Speech Day and Prize Giving	Big Field	Social
Fri 5th	11:45-14:00	Current OB Parent & Grandparent Speech Day Lunch. Contact: obclub@obclub.co.uk	Beale Centre	Old Blundellians association



Blundell's

FOUNDED 1604

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