



Blundell's



DIARY

APRIL 2021

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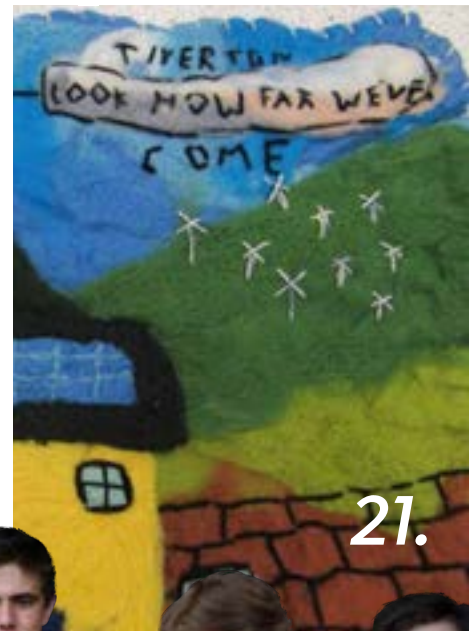
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Introduction to the Diary – Spring 2021



It is hard to comprehend that the first term of 2021 is already behind us when we have only just returned to school. It is an entirely unique and novel experience to have our first day 'back at school' in Week 9 of the term. On the one hand, we were all feeling the effects of working solidly, albeit remotely, for 8 weeks, but on the other, it felt like term had only just begun. The downside is that another few months have come and gone where we have not been able to do the things we love most, but, on the flipside, we return

when the weather is milder, the days are longer and there is an optimism in the air that is always familiar with spring.

The theme for this term has been resilience. Resilience in the face of adversity and in circumstances that would only have been thought of in the context of mass disaster or science fiction movies. It has been quite surreal at times, but young people assimilate things remarkably quickly and what seemed so alien has now become common place. Facemasks, social distancing, bubbles, etc, etc. We've taken it in our stride and we're still going strong.

I do hope that lasting themes will remain alongside resilience. I hope that we will be more compassionate and more appreciative. I hope that we will have had a chance to work out what matters most to us, what our priorities are and what is meaningless froth that we can do without. I hope we are more determined in our relationships and more enthusiastic in our endeavours. I hope that we cherish our privileges and look to share, not just from our surplus, but from ourselves. I hope we will be more generous, proactive, energetic and motivated.

I am mindful that we first will need a period of acclimatisation after so long in our cocoons. We need to start gently and build up our strength. This next period is one of recovery and rediscovery. Soon though, we will regain our strength and even be stronger than before this all started.

Mr Bart Wielenga

The Head

Academic



British Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiads

Back in September Harry participated in the BAAO (British Astronomy and Astrophysics) Challenge Olympiad where he achieved a Distinction and an invite into the BAAO Olympiad. A little later in the term Harry also achieved a TOP Gold in Round 1 of the BPhO (British Physics Olympiad) which qualified him for Round 2. At the end of February/beginning

of March, just before returning to school, Harry sat 2 three hour papers and we have now received the results for both. Harry has achieved GOLD in both competitions, (individual scores are not given out so we won't know officially how well he did).

At the end of our Spring Term, Harry sat a 4 hour Chemistry exam and has since been selected for a team of 4 to represent the UK at the International Chemistry Olympiad in July. A fantastic achievement.

He will now be invited to attend the Oxford Training Camps, from the 6th to 10th April 2021, for the International Physics Olympiad and/or the International Olympiad Astronomy and Astrophysics. In Year 12 Harry was selected for the BAAO team. It is an outstanding achievement to be selected two years in a row, and a first for any Blundellian. Harry has put a tremendous amount of work into the preparation for these competitions over the past two years and dedicated a massive amount of time during the holidays to this, completing endless past papers and thoroughly deserves his place on the training camps and a place on the international teams.

Just before the return to school we also entered students into the Senior and Intermediate Physics Challenges run by the British Physics Olympiad (BPhO). For the first time this year due to Covid 19 the challenges were run online. Each challenge consisted of two 30 minute papers testing Physics knowledge in a variety of ways.

The Senior Challenge is aimed at Year 12 pupils and the Intermediate Challenge is aimed at Year 11 students. Each challenge covers questions of an appropriate level based on an assortment from Dynamics, Electricity, Optics, Heat, Units, small amounts of Astronomy and Waves to name just a few.



British Physics Olympiad

Senior Challenge

This Year 8 students including two Year 11s entered the Senior Challenge. In total there were 5,270 entries from approximately 380 schools and students were awarded certificates if they achieved Bronze or higher. I am delighted to announce that all of our participants this year achieved an award - 4 Silvers and 4 Bronzes.

SILVER

Y11 - Louis 11

Y12 - James, Hebe and Bailey

BRONZE

Y11 - Tristan

Y12 - Bella, Alice and Promise

(Special mention to Louis and Tristan for attempting this in Year 11)

Intermediate Challenge

Seven Year 11 students and six Year 10 students entered the Intermediate Challenge. In total there were 4,710 entries from 204 schools. All of our students have been awarded certificates.

GOLD

Y10 - Freya

Y11 - James and Louis

SILVER

Y10 - Pierre-Louis,
Rafael and Vincent

Y11 - Joshua, Tristan,
Ash and Sidney

BRONZE

Y11 Isabel

Y10 Daniel and Sophia

Congratulations to all with special mention to the James, Louis and Freya for gaining Golds by achieving 75% and above.

Junior Challenge

This challenge is specifically aimed at Year 10 students and will take place next term.

Well done to everyone who entered these National Competitions, amazing effort from all especially the Year 10 who have only just started their GCSE course.

- Mrs Webster

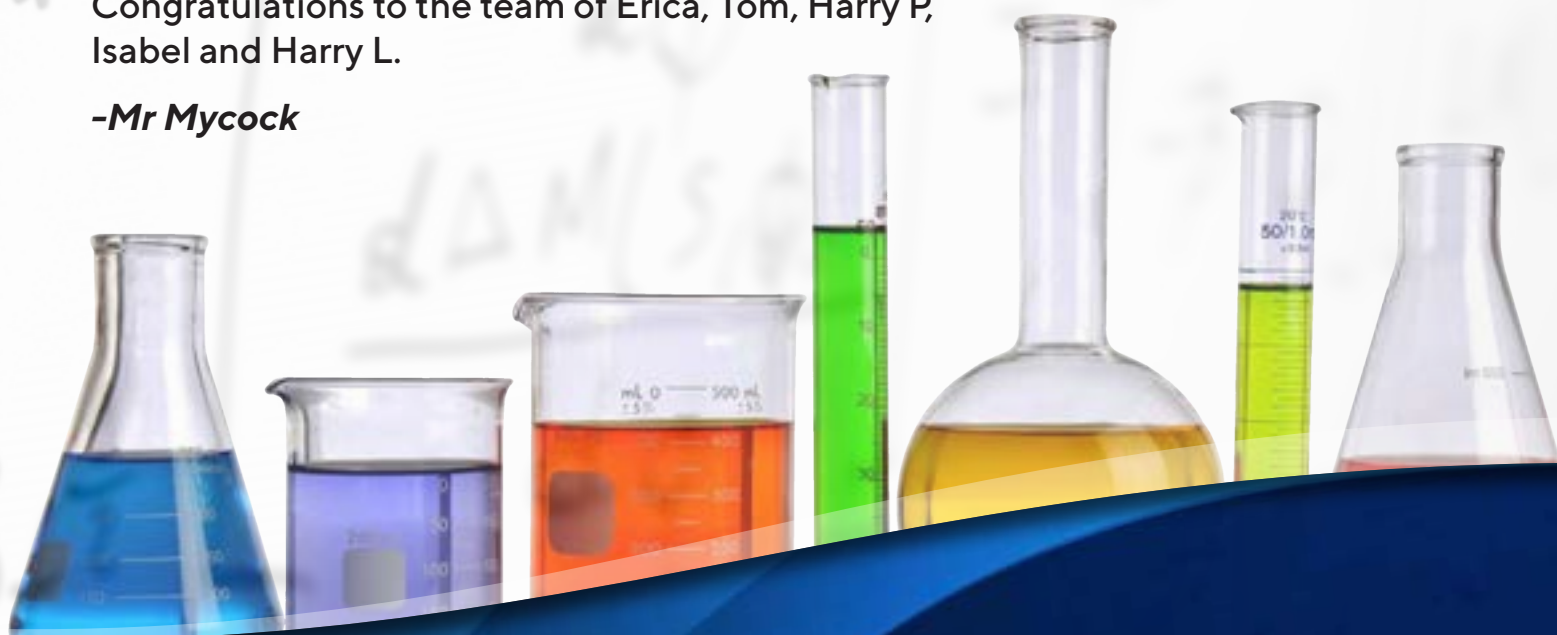


In February, five Year 13 chemists took part in the Cambridge Chemistry Race. A national contest for Sixth Form chemists involving answering as many questions as they can in a two-hour period, many of the questions stretch their skills and knowledge into solving advanced undergraduate level problems.

The team came sixth overall in a field of 42 teams, in a very close finish, only missing out on second place by 2 points. The team have put a huge effort into preparation over the last few weeks alongside their usual studies.

Congratulations to the team of Erica, Tom, Harry P, Isabel and Harry L.

-Mr Mycock



Sixth Form Debate (Wellington vs Blundell's)

In February, we held two Sixth Form Super Lockdown Quizzes, Blundell's vs Wellington. Blundell's narrowly lost the first, 33-36 to the Wellington team. A nail-biting last round, with Blundell's chasing Wellington.

The second day, Blundell's pair, Tom and Eve, proposed the motion that hope is justified. It was an excellent debate, with sophisticated understanding of issues and the opponent strategies. The audience was involved and enjoyed the debate. Strong speeches from both sides and over 30 in the audience. Blundell's came away victorious.

Thank you to Miss Mercer as one of the judges and Maddy (Head of School) as joint Chair.

- Miss Isdell-Carpenter



Intermediate Maths Challenge

This year saw a record number of students qualify for the Olympiad and Kangaroo follow-on rounds of the Intermediate Maths Challenge. A total of 14 students from Years 8 to 11 qualified, with Edward in Year 8, the highest scorer in school.

- Mr Roffe-Silvester



Oxbridge Candidates

The beginning of the term brought the excellent news that five of our students had secured offers of places at Oxford and Cambridge. The race is an exceptionally tough one and becoming increasingly so, and so we were very pleased to hear of offers to some very competitive courses indeed.

Tilda was offered a place to read Physics and Philosophy at Pembroke College, Oxford. There are only 15 places available for this course at the university so it is one of the hardest of the combined subjects. Harry gained a place to read Natural Sciences at St Catharine's, Cambridge while Tom received an offer for Biochemistry from University College, Oxford. Misha won a place on the highly competitive Oxford PPE course from Exeter College and James was offered a place for Classics from Downing College Cambridge.

The competition is extremely fierce and all those who applied (13), won interviews (12) and eventually places (5) deserve a great deal of praise.

- Mr Berrow



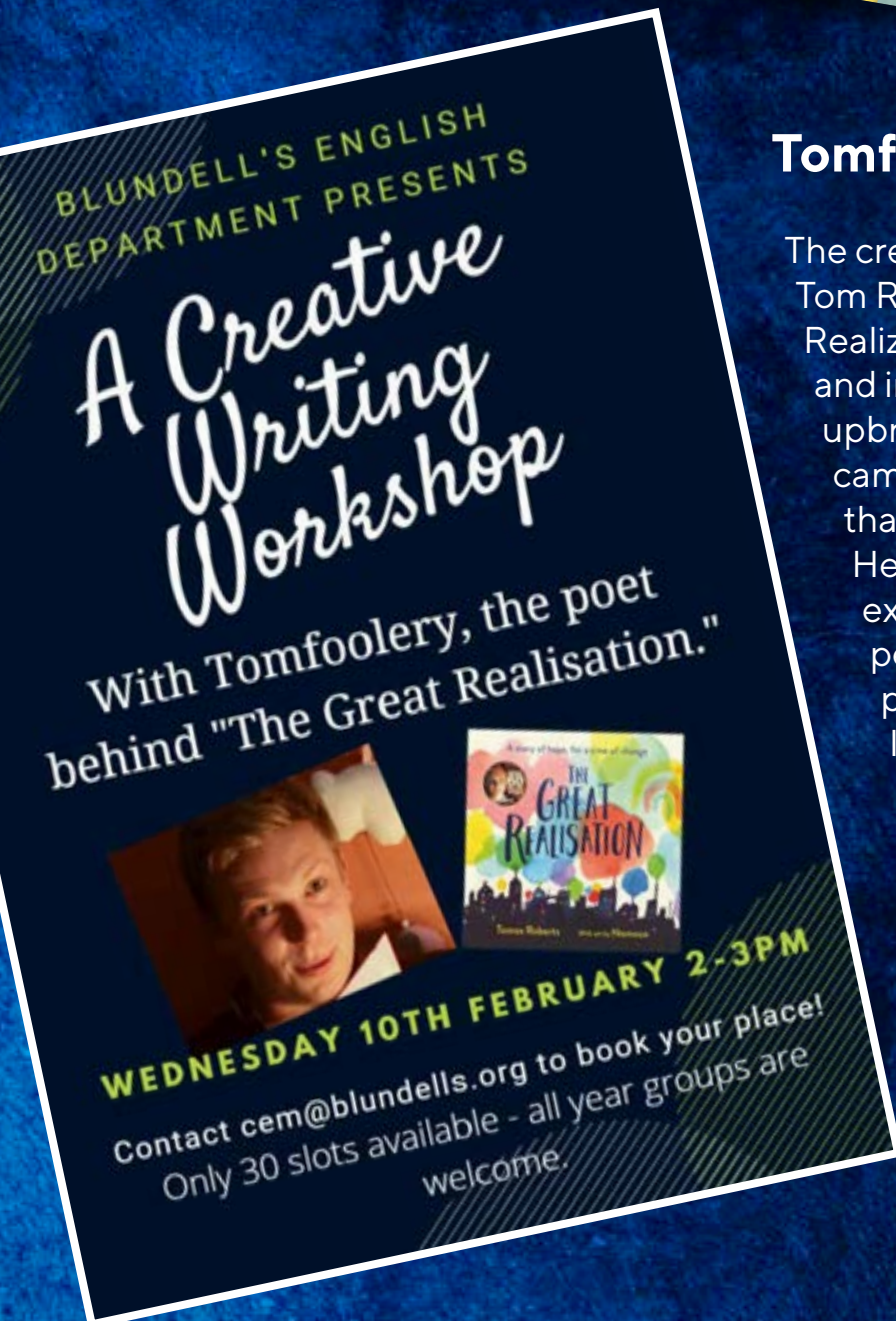
Film Studies

In Film Studies this term we took some time away from screen-based learning to make collages / mood boards relating to characters from the film we have been studying, 'City of God'. Dr Quinlivan-Brewer our Film Studies Teacher also cast her expert eye over what was available on various streaming services and created a shortlist to keep us entertained via our Enrichment & Engagement site.

- Dr Quinlivan-Brewer

Tomfoolery Workshop

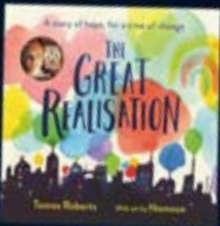

The creative writing workshop hosted by Tom Roberts (Writer of the poem the Great Realisation) was interesting, engaging and inspiring. Tom talked to us about his upbringing and explained to us how he came to write the Great Realisation and that the key to a great idea is simplicity. He also mentioned the importance of expressing yourself in your writing as people will enjoy reading books or poems that are written with passion. I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and I'm sure that everybody else who attended did.



BLUNDELL'S ENGLISH DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

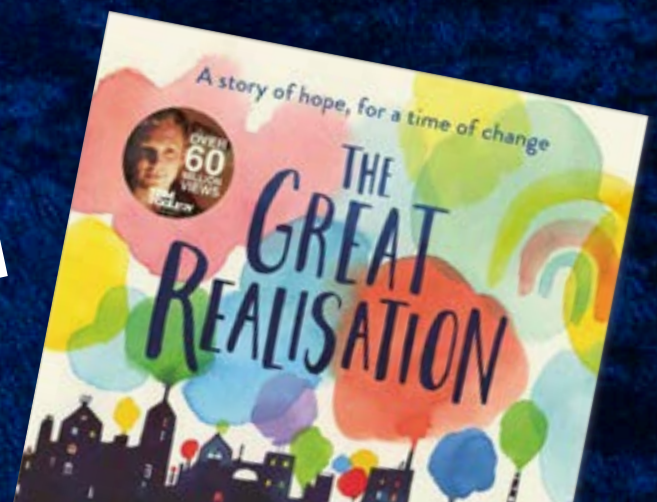
A Creative Writing Workshop

With Tomfoolery, the poet behind "The Great Realisation."



WEDNESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2-3PM

Contact cem@blundells.org to book your place!
Only 30 slots available - all year groups are welcome.



Never Such Innocence - Writing Competition

In English, just before half-term, Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in the creative writing competition Never Such Innocence as part of their work for the week. Never Such Innocence asks young people to think about issues around conflict – this year, entrants were asked to explore the fight created by Covid-19. Students have produced some really superb entries this year and we look forward to seeing what awards are achieved.

Below are some fantastic entries and accompanying art by Arby and Henry, both in Year 8.

Covid Daydreams - Arby

*Where buzzing cities' commotion once rose
Embattled ghost towns now blanket every
home*

*Prepared for battle
It's inhabitants now caged
Laughter, smiles silenced
Only dread and dismay remain*

*She left once again
Before I could blink
Now I ask myself
Are we on the brink?*

*Staring motionlessly into a lens
Alone once more
In the solitary confinement of battlements
That surrounds me from dusk till dawn*

*My body may be here
However my soul has disappeared
Once again stolen by that familiar place
That holds thousands of soldiers near*

*It's boat sail ceilings
It's white wash floors
They leave no trace
Of those who have come before*

*I search for her
Hours on end
Till I seek out the one
Who's feelings I came to comprehend*

*Her face stained with agonising unease
Gravity draws her eyes down
At the tips of her feet
Another victim sprawled on the ground
As it descends on the child
There's nothing she can do
The scent of death chokes my throat
I can almost touch the devil
As it's midnight shadow looms into view*

*Another friend adrift
Another burden taken
Now they can rest easy
In the soft grasp of heaven
A waterfall of emotion is now flowing at a pace
Streaking past her cheek
And leaving scars on her face*

*Her turquoise uniform reminds me of the sea
That paradise of foaming horses and crystal
tranquility
So far and distant from me*

*I have now returned to the cage
My mind cloudy and discontent
But one thought still presides
Over the murky depths of my head*

*As I know that my mother
So altruistic, gallant and true
Is facing the unknown enemy
Which might terminate you*

(continued)

(continued)

Shattered - Henry

*Soul shattered,
Yet it never seems to have mattered,
But beneath a calm exterior,
A young heart is being driven to hysteria.*

*Engulfed in despair,
The only company the entire world can
provide:
Your own reflection, in which you confide,
As it looks straight back at you with a
constant stare.*

*A brutal trial,
One of endless tears, longing and pain,
When all was required was a kiss and a
smile,*

*There was no one there, yet no one to
blame.*

*The prospect of normality,
Tests new levels of restraint and sanity,
But as the number increases
Activity ceases,
Effectively, customary practice resumed.*

*When this pandemic truly ceases,
All the unkept promises that got caught up
in the crisis,
Will send shock waves throughout the
world,
And we shall all pay the prices,
When we are expected... to pick up the
pieces...*



Virtual Scholarships

As with so many things that needed improvisation this year, we were unable to run our 11+ and 13+ scholarship days on site so we moved them online.

Applicants were posted their exam papers in sealed envelopes and invited in small groups to Teams meetings where an invigilator oversaw the opening of the papers and the sitting of exams to ensure the process was as rigorous as always.

Completed papers were then photographed, converted to PDFs and emailed to the school for marking. The pupils involved showed great independence and impressive technical skills to cope admirably with this extra level of complication, whilst still performing at such a high level in the examinations, in such novel circumstances.

Artistic skills were also assessed online via Teams meetings and recordings of Musical performances were submitted for assessment

We were delighted with the impressive levels of ability shown by all the applicants this year, which made for some very tough decisions for Mr Wielenga to make over the awarding of Scholarships.



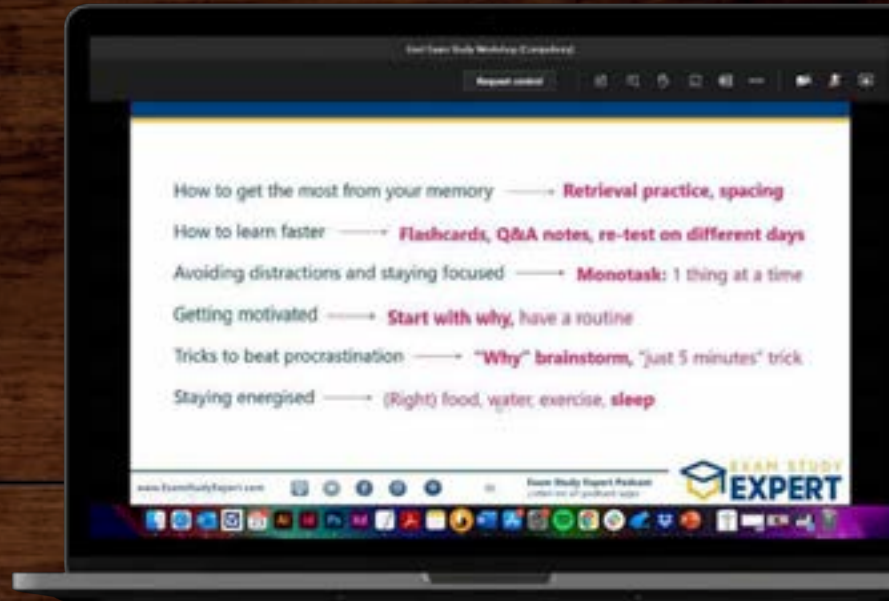
William Wadsworth Workshop

In February we held two Exam Study Workshops via Microsoft Teams, by William Wadsworth, an exam study expert.

William helps students find an easier path to exam success, by translating brain-science into highly practical strategies (that really work).

The topics he covered were:

- 1) *Mindset Mastery*
- 2) *Getting Started*
- 3) *Make It Stick - Memory*
- 4) *Outsmart Your Exams - Coping with stress and anxiety.*



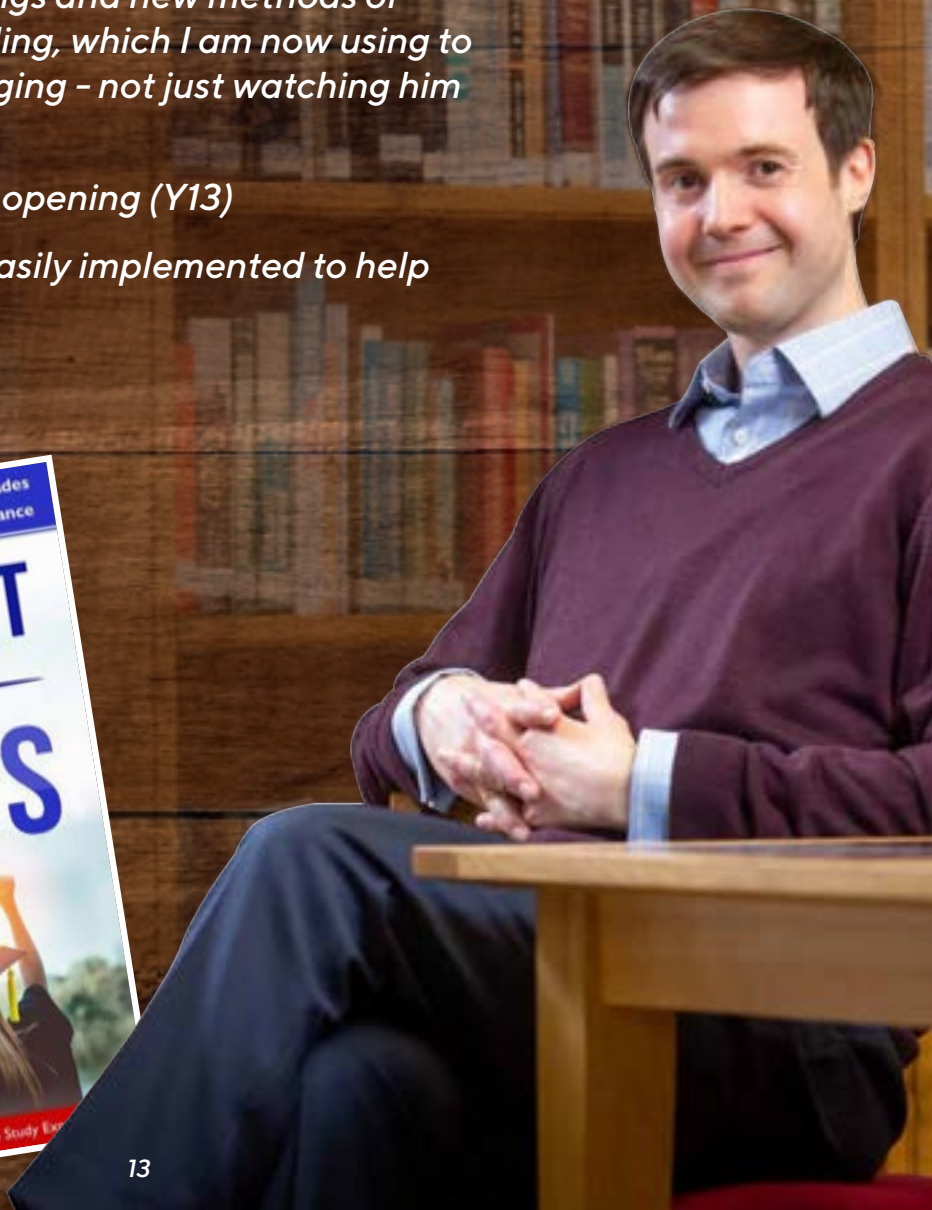
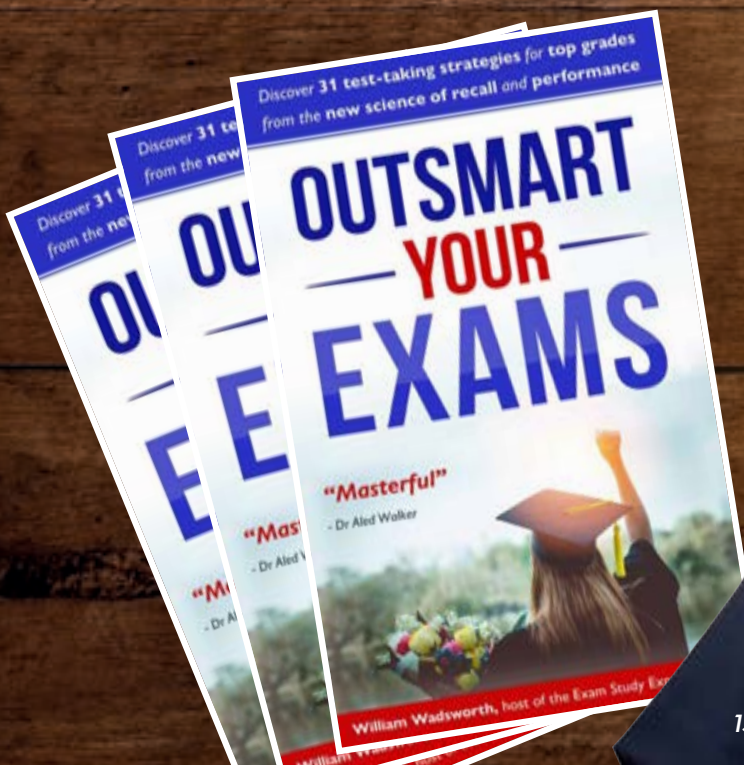
Some comments from the pupils following the workshop were:

Really interesting, learnt new things and new methods of revision – such as memory journaling, which I am now using to revise. Very interactive and engaging – not just watching him speak, which was great. (Y12)

Informative, very interesting, eye opening (Y13)

Lots of information that can be easily implemented to help revise and it was concise. (Y13)

Miss Isdell-Carpenter



Exploring Options

We have joined in the celebrations of two National careers events this term, supporting students across the year groups to explore options and opportunities for their future, which they may not have thought about before.

National Apprenticeship Week took place in February, with daily events hosted by UCAS and employers such as IBM and EY, enabling students to find out more about what apprenticeships involve and the growing range of opportunities available. We launched the week with our Blundell's Degree Apprenticeship event and welcomed the return of OB Emily Squibb (2014 – 2019 NC), Formulation & Process Design Degree Apprentice at Pfizer, to share her experiences and decision to follow a degree apprenticeship route. We also welcomed Pearson College London and the University of Exeter, to learn more about the many Degree Apprenticeship programmes available, including Chartered Manager, Digital Technology Solutions, Diagnostic Radiographer, Applied Finance and Civil Engineering.

In March, we celebrated National Careers Week and shared a daily quick watch, explore and careers spotlight, via the Careers Zone on the Engagement & Enrichment site, to inspire and engage students in learning more about the many careers and directions available to them. Events included a virtual careers fair, university and STEM festivals and talks and lectures, including those hosted by Blundell's which over 100 students and teachers participated in over the course of the week. We are very grateful to all of the speakers, who gave their time to share their expertise with us: Andrew Wallis, from Falmouth University who talked about 'Creative Careers and Degree Courses'; Paul Richards, an Advanced Physiotherapy Practitioner in the NHS; Madeleine Shaw (also singing teacher at Blundell's) who talked about 'The Job of an Opera Singer'; Professor Nigel Holt, Head of Psychology at Aberystwyth University; and Jessica Coggins, Research Associate, UWE Bristol who talked about her pathway into sports and health research.

- Mrs Bucknell



World Book Day

World Book Day is a day for the calendar of any school English Department: fancy dress galore, themed sessions and workshops. This year, albeit remotely, was no disappointment! Our pupils were as exuberant as ever. The 'home from home' fancy dress for favourite reads was a delight and cheered up our seminars no end.

Mr Wielenga set the challenge in Latin Prayer for pupils and staff alike to take an extreme reading image. As you can see, we have some gregarious and adventurous members in our community. The Masked Reader challenge gave us all a much-needed giggle. Some of us are still trying to unravel the cryptic clues. We hope you enjoyed the activities on offer as much as we relished seeing your enthusiasm for reading.

- Mrs Thomas

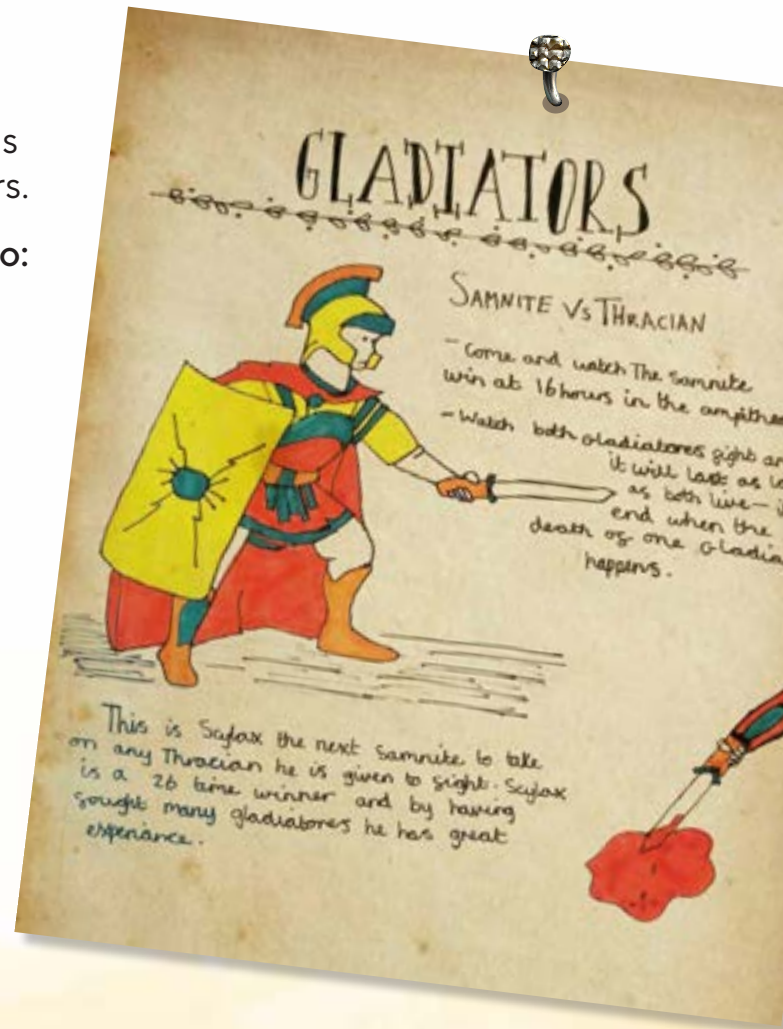


Year 8 Gladiator Project

Our Year 8 have been having fun in Latin this term. A 2-week creative project on gladiators.

- They had a choice of activity they could do:
- Advertise a gladiator fight
- Build their own amphitheatre in card or in minecraft
- Recreate gladiator weapons and dress
- Create a newspaper front page or magazine article.

- Mrs Milne



Year 7 Castles Project

Year 7 Castles Projects: During Lockdown Year 7 have been studying the development of castles all the way from the Motte and Bailey Castles of the Normans after 1066 right up to the modern era and how castles are used today. They looked at different designs of castles and how technology and tactics helped to change the design and building materials of them and they also looked at the weapons that were used to lay siege to castles through the middle ages. As part of the project they were tasked with building a model of a castle at home- some opted for the traditional cardboard and cellotape, while others went a little more contemporary and designed and built a castle on Minecraft, a creative computer game. Across the board they seemed to enjoy the project and with such a wealth of castles in the local vicinity, they have plenty of options to visit when the lockdown lifts!

- Mr Hayward





Modern Languages

During lockdown, our language learners have been busy cooking some delicious French/Spanish dishes. It gave us a fantastic opportunity to offer a different learning experience to our students to learn languages. It enabled us to present language learning in context rather than the sometimes more artificial environment of the classroom. Year 7 produced some savoury tapas 'tomate y jamón tostadas'. Others preferred to make a traditional Spanish omelette 'tortilla de patatas'. The 'churros y chocolate caliente' were also very popular.

Year 8 were given the task to prepare a 3-course meal with regional dishes from France: quiche Lorraine, coq au vin, salade niçoise, mousse au chocolat, brioche and even crème brûlée et caramel. Pictures of these wonderful creations are on display in the MFL building.

Each week of the lockdown learning our Year 12 French students were given a new recipe to complete. The first task was to bake a Galette des rois. The galette des rois, celebrating Epiphany, the day the Three Kings (les rois) visited the infant Jesus, is baked throughout January in France. It is a very popular tradition in France where families get together to share the cake on 6th January. Whoever finds the little ceramic charm in their slice of the cake gets to be king or queen for the day.

To celebrate "la chandeleur" (French pancake day) on 2nd February we enjoyed la galette des rois, la brioche, le pain au chocolat, les macarons and crepes. Again, making the most of the online teaching by including things that we are not able to do in class. There is more to learning languages than just grammar and vocabulary!

- Mr Lecharpentier



Creative Arts

Drawing Competition

Over half term the Art Department offered a free Teams Drawing workshop with professional Artist Paul Brandford.

With well-being in mind, it was well attended with over 45 students, staff and parents signing up to be creative for the two-hour session. Tackling mark making, portraits and imagined compositions the participants were put through their paces.

Mrs Armstrong Williams - Director of Art said " It is always so encouraging to see the huge variety of work produced when we are all being taught the same thing, by the same person, at the same time! It was great to think about nothing but the paper in front of us and being creative for a couple of hours".

Other comments were:

"Just to say thank you for running this course for us today! It brightened up another day in Lockdown. Paul was good fun and certainly made us think hard" and "Thank you for arranging today. It was lovely to have two hours all to myself! Seemed to fly by."

- Mrs Armstrong Williams



Food Photography Competition

Last year we experienced our first lockdown and had to find new ways of entertaining ourselves from the comfort of our home. We were all inspired to get creative and for some of us that was in the form of baking. Whether you were making cakes or binge-watching Hell's Kitchen, I think we all found solace in the art of making food. When the second lockdown hit, we thought it would be a great opportunity to explore the theme of food for our termly photography competition. The range of images received was fantastic, from pet lizards feeding time to carefully considered plates of herbs and spices. All the entries celebrated our love of food and creativity.

The winners of the competition were put into categories: Staff, Senior and Junior school students.

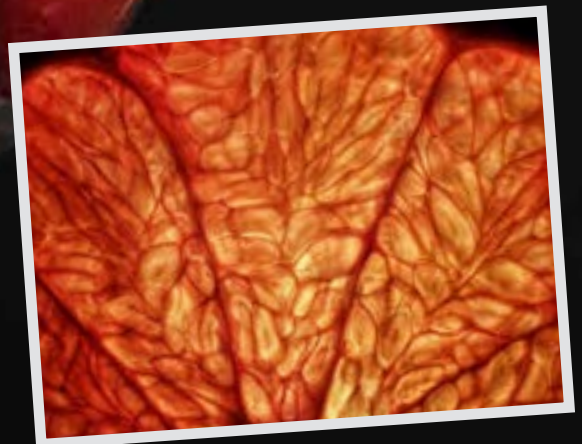
The winners from each category were:

Mrs Milne (close up macro shot of an orange), *Carla Year 10* (freeze motion shot of fruit being dropped into a glass of water) and *Ella Year 9* (beautifully arranged plate of herbs and spices).

Miss Hunter



Mrs Milne



Ella



Carla

Sustainability Tiverton Competition

In February, the secretary of the Sustainable Tiverton committee announced the results of the 2020 Art Competition. Evie won the 14-16 year old category for her representation of a Sustainable Tiverton of the future and will be awarded her prize of a bike. Issy was joint runner up securing a £20 book token for her submission made entirely of felt. Bella, Flo, Georgia, Hattie and Jinny were all "Commended" in the 14 to 16 age group.

The intention is to hold an exhibition of entries to the competition at a suitable venue in Tiverton when circumstances make such an event possible. In addition to the above, the exhibition will feature the work of Amala, Evie and Tierney. Huge congratulations to all those who took part and submitted their work.

- Mrs Armstrong Williams

When I first heard of the title of 'Sustainable Tiverton', I struggled to come up with ideas, but I thought of the streets I see every day and to show the deeper meaning of a sustainable Tiverton. This is important it shows the sustainable future we hope to live in. I really enjoyed the art part of the project as it meant I could show the future of the world through a piece of artwork.

Evie Y10



I really enjoyed the Sustainability Competition, I felt that as the younger generation we need to learn about sustainability for our own futures and this competition helped us do that. The world is changing and in a short time it will be our job to protect it, and it is great we were given the chance to lay the foundations of our efforts towards helping the planet to heal. I loved the art aspect of the competition as being able to project your voice through art is a beautiful thing.

Isobel Y10



Drama



Drama School/Conservatoire

A year ago, our Ondaatje Theatre closed its doors to audiences. Many students have missed opportunities to perform on its stage over the last 12 months and perhaps those who have felt this more keenly than anyone are the A Level Drama students.

They have had no Senior School play to end off their Blundell's Drama journey in style and their A Level practical pieces have had to be performed behind closed doors. However, this hasn't dampened their dramatic ambitions and this year we celebrate the success of three of our Year 13 students who have been offered places at prestigious Drama Schools.

At the beginning of the year, Olivia's performing talents and her commitment to the Drama Department were recognised not only with Full Colours for Drama but also with the role of Captain of Drama. Since then, she has built on those successes and followed her passion by applying to Drama School. She received three call backs and was offered places at Oxford School of Drama and East 15, both among the top Drama schools in the country as well as international recognition with an offer to study at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Scarlett a sixth-form Drama scholar is also pursuing her passion for the performing arts and has been offered a place at London-based Fourth Monkey Drama School following a highly competitive audition process and Myles is following in the footsteps of OB Roza Matuszyk (2015 – 2020 NC) by accepting an offer to study Acting and Performance at University Arts London which counts Paul Bettany, Colin Firth and Tom Hardy amongst its alumni.

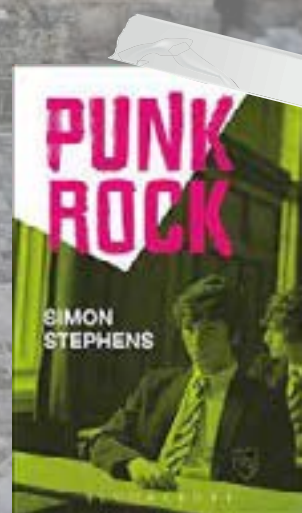
We hope that our Year 13 Drama students will be able to perform their A Level practical pieces in the theatre next term and hopefully to an audience if restrictions allow. This will give them a well-deserved opportunity to tread the Ondaatje boards once again and we wish them all the best of luck and every success with their future endeavours.

- Mrs Milne



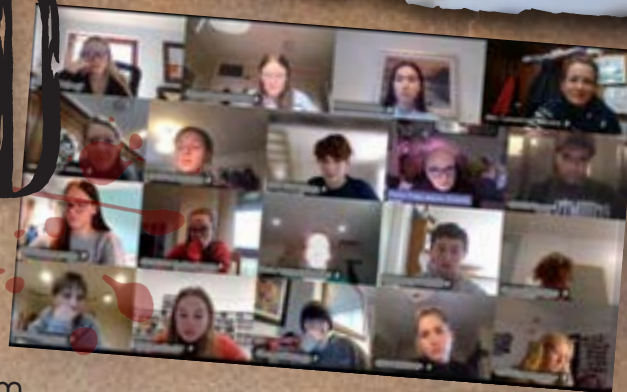
Play Reading Group

The Play Reading Group, ran by Mrs Milne, continued to meet up on TEAMS every Monday and Thursday evening as part of the Engagement and Enrichment programme. This was a fantastic opportunity for those interested in theatre and new writing to have access to a wide range of material. During the term they were introduced to a variety of genres from Comedy of Manners in Oscar Wilde's 'The Importance of Being Earnest' to Laura Wade's contemporary adaptation of Jane Austen's unfinished novel 'The Watsons' and the exploration of the American Dream in Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman'. They also enjoyed more contemporary works by Mike Bartlett and Simon Stephens.



SWEENEY TODD

On the 9th of February the Year 12 and 13 A Level Drama students attended an online workshop with Peter Polycarpou, a star of Musical Theatre who's West End credits include the title role in The Phantom of the Opera, The Childcatcher in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Thenardier in Les Miserables and Ali Hakim in Oklahoma! He also starred alongside Michael Ball and Imelda Staunton in Sondheim's Sweeney Todd. It was this expertise that he shared with our students as this musical is one of their A Level set texts. He put them through their paces really developing their understanding of the musical and its characters, inspiring our students to look at the performance from a fresh perspective.



- Mrs Winsley

Macbeth



On February 11th, Year 10 had the opportunity to engage with an online production of Macbeth, designed for schools by We Are Read Through, an initiative designed to bring Shakespeare to schools virtually.

Students in Year 10 really enjoyed the process of experiencing the play through the screen - the production was cleverly designed to include the reading of Act and Scene numbers, with character names being on the screen of each actor who appeared in scenes to aid the student's understanding of the plot. Joe Lycett gave a very amusing performance as the porter! Overall, students found it to be a rewarding and interesting experience of live theatre at home.

- Miss Mercer



Livestream from the Royal Shakespeare Company

Year 8 & 9 gathered in their bubbles in Big School to watch a livestream from the Royal Shakespeare Company inspired by Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. The virtual reality style action was set in a digital 'forest' environment using the same platform that powers the computer game Fortnite. Marking a year since UK theatres shut down due to Covid, this was an innovative approach which showcased the possibilities of using digital technology in live performance.

- Mrs Winsley



Speech and Drama

The Speech and Drama students worked tirelessly over lockdown in preparation for their examinations this term. Unfortunately, due to restrictions the examiner couldn't be with us in person but they were assessed remotely. Exams were taken in Reading for Performance, Acting, Poetry & Prose, Speech and Drama, and Shakespeare in Performance. We are very proud of the way in which the students applied themselves.

- Mrs Milne



Music

Blundell's Performer of the Year 2021

On March 25th, thirty of the school's musicians took part in the finale of the Performer of the Year Competition. There were nearly 100 entries to the heats of the competition and with the winners of the heats all playing their solos we were treated to an evening of exceptional music-making. The thirty finalists gathered for a socially distanced concert, and although it was a great shame not to be able to perform to a live audience, the pupils still performed to hundreds of people via the online stream.

After a year without being able to perform the students were understandably nervous, but their dedication to their instruments is testament to their resilience and they all gave wonderful renditions of challenging music. The evening flew by and the atmosphere in the hall was one of support, engagement, enthusiasm and warmth. It was wonderful to see students enjoying themselves in a shared musical event.

Although the act of performing music again is more important than the outcome, this was still a competition and huge congratulations go to the category winners as judged by the very talented professional violinist and pianist Declan Daly:

GRADE 1-3 (EARLY STAGES OF LEARNING)

Overall winner: Oliver Y9 & Anna Y10 (voice)

Highly commended: Patrick Y7 (unplugged)

GRADE 4-6 (MIDDLE ABILITY)

Overall winner: Ben Y11 (alto saxophone)

Highly commended: Dan Y8 (drums)

GRADE 7+ (ADVANCED ABILITY)

Overall winner: Hebe Y12 (flute) & Lottie Y12 (voice)

Highly commended: Laura Y13 (voice),
Lochy Y11 (drums), Eva Y12 (piano)



ABRSM Music Examinations

Our music students continue to develop their skills on their instruments and although the Covid-19 pandemic has stopped many of the usual routines, we were still able to have pre-recorded and face-to-face examinations this term. There were 13 entries to either the standard face-to-face examination or the performance examinations. All the students had continued with their music lessons online until the week before their exams when we returned which demonstrates their exceptional commitment and determination during this difficult term.

Congratulations to:

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Laura	Singing	8	Merit
Wilfred	Alto Sax	7	Distinction
William	Piano	6	Distinction
William	Trumpet	6	Merit
Poppy	Singing	5	Merit
Harry	Trombone	5	Merit
Charlie	Trombone	5	Merit
Harry	Piano	5	Merit
Delilah	Singing	5	Merit
Benjamin	Alto Sax	4	Merit
Sophie	Violin	4	Pass
Ella	Cello	3	Distinction
Amelia	Clarinet	2	Merit



School House Fanfare Competition

Last term Year 7 and 8 competed in the 'School House Fanfare Competition' for the prize of the opportunity to have their compositions played and performed by professional musicians. Having studied fanfares over the term, students were asked to compose their own using the industry standard music software Logic Pro X. They were given a brief to compose to and they had to consider a range of elements to compose successfully: structure, texture, instrumentation and dynamics, to name a few. There were some fantastic entries, and we would like to highlight some of the compositions that stood out from each class:

From Year 7: Morgan, Nathan and Ella/Freya

From Year 8: Ollie, Ophelia and Alex

(continued)

(continued)

It is our pleasure to announce that the overall winners of the competition are Illy (Year 7) and William (Year 8). These two compositions not only followed the brief but also went beyond the expectations for the competition. Illy has been creative with her structure and melody using a variety of brass instruments and Will has created a very lyrical fanfare for trumpets, creating a sequential passage between the parts. We can look forward to hearing these being performed at a live concert in the near future!

A very big well done to everyone in School House who took part. We have enjoyed listening to your fanfares and would like to commend you all for your creativity and enthusiasm during this project.

London Chamber Orchestra Collaboration

Blundell's School has worked alongside the London Chamber Orchestra since 2016 and lockdown has not prevented this extraordinary relationship from continuing to grow. The Year 9 Instrumental Music Scholars attended an Animateur Workshop session led by the LCO's Creative Director Ruth Rosales. Two of those students also had the opportunity to take part in a Composition Workshop with Cheryl Francis-Hoad, the award-winning and much performed composer.

As well as these ventures, on the 25th February a Year 12 Quartet performed the interval music for an LCO online concert. Hebe, Eve, Freya and Cosi recorded a Prelude and Fugue by Dmitri Shostakovich in lockdown. Originally a piano piece, Dr Leaman arranged it for two flutes, clarinet and cello so that our impressive musicians could continue to develop their chamber music skills, albeit remotely. The quartet were given an impressive introduction in the concert by Christopher Warren-Green, the conductor of the LCO.

The concert was streamed live to thousands of watchers from across the globe and the musicians of Blundell's did themselves and the school proud.



THE RUSSELL



2021





The Russell Results

Russell winners in each year group:

- Year 7 = Jemima (Beale) & Patrick (Mayfield)
- Year 8 = Daisy (Mayfield) & Will (Beale)
- Year 9 = Lucy (NC) & Seb (PG)
- Year 10 = Carla (NC) & Harvey (OH)
- Year 11 = Ylva (NC) & Ben (OH)
- Year 12 = Meg (NC) & Henri (PG)
- Year 13 = Holly (GH) & Misha (FH)



Sport



Virtual 5K Challenge

At the start of lockdown we set the 5K Challenge for our pupils, a student from each year group was initially nominated to complete their 5K. After this they were to nominate 5 other students and it grew from there. Students ran in their local areas and with a variety of family members. It was well participated in over the 2 weeks with over 50 students from years 7 to 13 taking part as well as 13 members of staff. In the second week many of our students were keen to complete the challenge again. We awarded prizes for fastest boy and girl participants who were Ben FH in Year 11 and Rosie in Year 13. As well as a participation award that was won by Uttara in Year 9 and Will in Year 8.



Congratulations to Jack

Jack in Year 10 who has gained his Day Skipper Level qualification by doing a shore-based course with his parents during lock down.

'Ferry Impressive!'



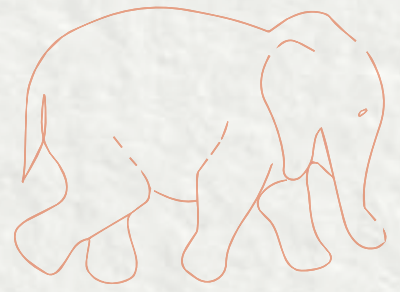
Congratulations to Megan

who has made the Team Bath Netball U18 Squad.

A breadth and depth of exciting young netball talent in South West leads to Team Bath setting up a new U18 development squad. Best of luck Megan.



Strava Competitions



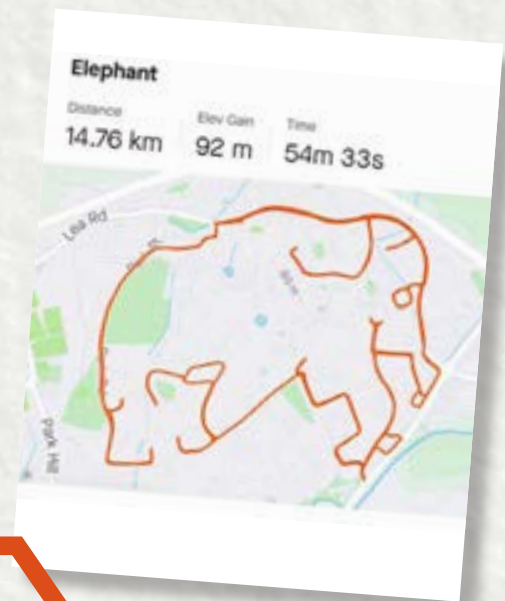
Virtual House Running Competition

In what has been an extremely frustrating term for the pupils with regards to their sporting endeavours, they were able to get their competitive juices flowing with a running and cycling challenge. The Virtual House Running Competition took place over two weeks prior to half term and saw lots of pupils getting out running and walking. It was nip and tuck right up until the last minute, but a 30km entry from Petergate's Head of House, Chris, swung it their way.

The pupils really bought into it and we have seen 182 participants, clocking up 5060kms, through walks, jogs and some very impressive runs. The staff also joined in, amassing over 1000kms, with Mrs Wheatley running just shy of 170km!

Overall Standings

1st -Petergate 2nd - Westlake 3rd -OH 4th - FH
5th -NC -(won the girls competition) 6th -GH 7th -SH



Inter House Cycling Competition

The inter house cycling followed the running competition with an equally exciting finish. Westlake, OH and SH have all had the lead at one stage in the last few days, however, it was Westlake, lead by Toby who did enough to win the competition by just 17kms!

In total there were 135 participants including students, parents and teachers, who amassed an amazing 8314kms before the 7pm cut off on Sunday night. Well done to Mr Edwards for winning the parent competition.



A Question of Sport

Part 2



22 teams and over 50 players took part in the second addition of 'Blundell's A Question Of Sport'. It was another close contest which examined the participants sporting knowledge on a variety of sports trivia.

The Year 13 team of Misha, Oliver, Will, Hal, Tom, Ed and Harry lead after achieving full marks in the first four rounds. However, it was Miss Gill who triumphed showing great sporting knowledge and quicker reactions in the rapid fire Kahoot 'On the Buzzer' round.

It was great to have so many pupils, staff and families get involved and hopefully we can do something similar but in person in the not too distant future!



Final Results

- 1 Miss Gill
- 2 Misha, Oliver, Will, Hal, Tom, Ed and Harry (Year 13)
- 2 Mr Radley
- 4 Ayerst Family
- 4 Ben, Ben, Troy, Finn (Year 11)



Charity

Normally our North Close girls hold a fund-raising event within school, but this has not been possible this term due to the national lockdown. Therefore, they have come together to contribute their favourite recipes in our North Close Lockdown Cookbook.

The cookbook has a wide variety of snacks, dips, drinks, meals & cakes including vegan & vegetarian recipes too.

They have raised a whopping £580 for FORCE Cancer Charity

www.forcecancercharity.co.uk

To purchase a copy of the cookbook please donate to their Just Giving page on the link below and then email ncrecipes2021@gmail.com and they will send you a copy.

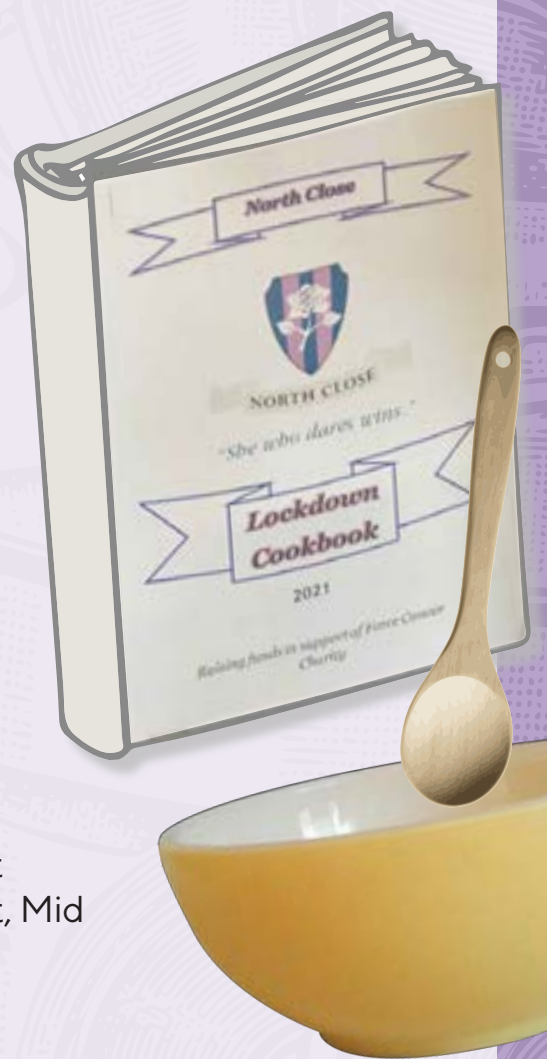
If you donate to the charity through their page you can request a copy.

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/northclose

They had hoped to raise as much money as possible for FORCE (Friends of the Oncology and Radiotherapy Centre, Exeter). FORCE offers free physical, emotional, psychological, and practical support to people across Devon - from their Support and Information Centre in Exeter and community hospitals around the county. It also funds research and equipment and pays for specialist nursing staff who deliver life-saving chemotherapy in East, Mid and West Devon.

- Ms Hunt

£580
Raised for
Charity



Clear Out to Help Out

This term our Charity Committee organised a Clear Out to Help Out fundraiser encouraging people to clear out any unwanted items to raise money for the three Blundell's charities; CHAT, DS Active and Force Cancer Charity. There is still time to donate so if you are planning a clear out over the holidays you can donate the proceeds to the Blundell's School Virgin Money Giving Page:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/BlundellsSchool>



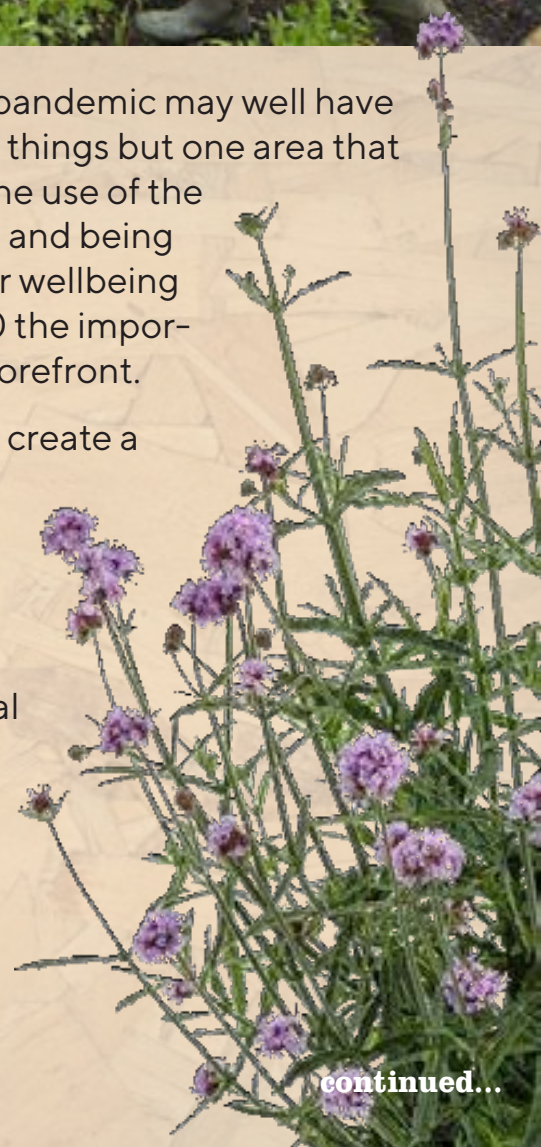
The Blundell's Garden



The COVID-19 pandemic may well have stopped a lot of things but one area that has truly blossomed is the use of the garden. It has long been known how working with and being surrounded by nature has a hugely positive impact on your wellbeing and mental health and throughout the lockdowns of 2020 the importance of gardens and open spaces has really come to the forefront.

The Blundell's Garden is open to everyone. The vision is to create a beautiful space for us all to enjoy with the opportunity to learn horticultural skills, landscaping, learn about wildlife whilst improving biodiversity, understand the importance of sustainability and environmental care and be a place to rest, relax, enjoy each other's company, and focus on life's priorities. The Blundell's Garden will also play a central role in Community Partnerships at Blundell's as space for events and activities available to our wider community of Tiverton.

So much has happened in the garden since school closed on Friday 20th March that I have split this section into two halves: March to August and then September to December.



continued...



March to August

The Wednesday afternoon School House Roots and Wings Garden Team had just finished digging, lining, and filling the pond when everything had to stop as school closed. The pupils left and as Housemaster of Old House and living on site I was left with the garden. I was keen to ensure the pupils returned to a garden full of produce ready to harvest in September so set about filling the beds with seeds throughout the spring and finishing off the pond.

To give a break from online learning and keep pupils active and engaged at home a brilliant Engagement and Enrichment site was produced. I decided to produce a series of '**Grow Your Own**' videos that the Blundell's community could follow throughout the coming months. Eight episodes were produced with filming and editing being done by Jack Olive (OH, 2014-2019). They were:

Grass to Veg: starting from scratch with a patch of grass

The Greenhouse: getting crops started in the greenhouse

Get Growing: preparing the plot and starting off

Dig for Victory: to celebrate VE Day 75 which included information about Blundell's Dig for Victory involvement

Brassicas and Weeds: planting a range of brassica's and getting weeds under control

Fruit and the First Harvest: ensuring a health fruit harvest and the first vegetable pickings

Around Blundell's: an episode in which Harry Flower, Blundell's Head Gardener took us on a tour of the campus

A Garden is so much more: focusing on the importance of a garden to increase and improve biodiversity, sustainability our environmental responsibility and our mental health.



The series was hugely successful and included guest gardeners from the staff body and contributions from the pupils and parents that were following online and gardening at home. The Grow Your Own page received over a 1000 views.



Where Are They Now

You asked, and we listened.

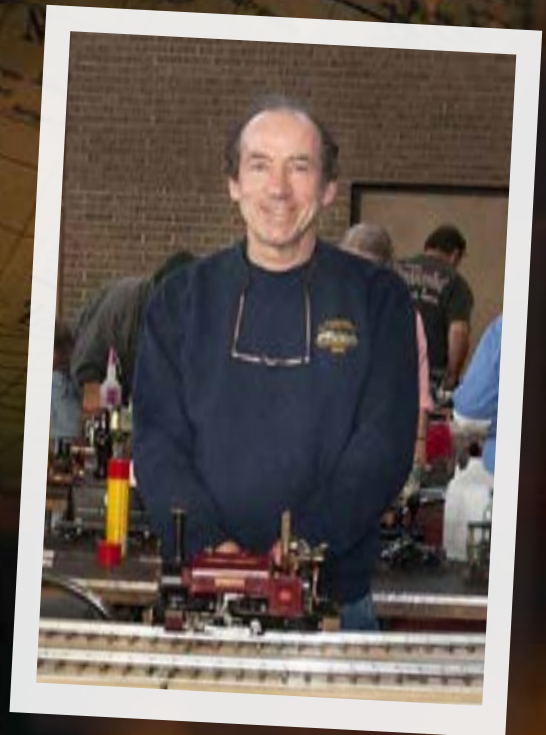
As part of our Development and Old Blundellian Survey to our Community, over 95% of those who responded, have asked for more 'Where Are They Now' stories of their peers. We have a few additional stories to add in the next edition, if you would like to also contribute an update, please contact the Development Office.

Peter Comley (W 1964-69)

Earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College, London 1972. After moving to Birmingham, I worked at the International Nickel research lab investigating superplastic forming of metals. In 1975, I married Carol and in 1979 had a son.

I moved to Los Angeles in 1982 and began working in superplastic forming of titanium at Murdock Inc for the aerospace industry. In 1996, I moved to Seattle to work for Boeing Airplane Co and retired in 2009. Carol sadly passed in 2012, but I have two lovely grandchildren, Wynnston (9) and Raine (6), who also live in the Seattle area. I bought a small business making model train track (outdoor garden sized) which keeps me busy in 'retirement'. I travel a lot around the USA and the world, and love coming back to the UK to see friends and family. Life is short, enjoy it to the utmost!

www.sunsetvalleyrailroad.com



Anthony Hadow (NC 1967-72)



Players (L to R): Dave Penny (M 1968-73), Anthony Hadow (NC 1967-72), Jeremy Lloyds (FH 1968-73), Bill Atkinson (P 1967-72), Bill Sykes (M 1968-72), Vic Marks (FH 1968-73) and Graham Howe (M 1967-72).

"Resplendent in the all-white first team strip of that time, seven tired and proud lads receiving the cup after winning the Devon Schools rugby sevens tournament in 1972; Ted Crowe beaming in the background. This was one of my sporting highlights at school and I never found out why Ted took me from the relative obscurity of the 3rd XV wing to prop for his team. Whatever the reason, I'll always be grateful because I was destined for the cross-country team after a good result in the Russell the year before and that wasn't my idea of fun! I continued playing rugby until over 30, for various "Exiles" teams, but stopped after recurring tendonitis.

After Blundell's, I went on to Manchester University and was awarded a B.Sc. in Geography with Physics and Geology as subsidiary subjects, played a lot of rugby, and even managed a few games on the wing for the first XV. Thereafter, I had no idea what I wanted to do, or "be", but, after a couple of years, I got a job in the oil and gas drilling industry and stayed there for the remainder of my working life! I started as a "mud logger" (basic onsite geological analysis and gas measurement) before moving into the realm of drilling fluids or "mud engineering", which I describe as a mixture of chemistry, geology, engineering principles, logistical challenges, and a touch of luck!

Working in the drilling industry has been a roller-coaster ride but I have been fortunate enough to survive the worst down-turns and the experience has been incredible. I haven't really lived in the UK since 1978, although I owned a flat in London until 1983, but have lived in Sharjah, Greece, Qatar, Denmark, Germany and Norway. I've worked on almost 70 different drilling rigs on land and sea in 11 different countries - ranging from the 50 ° c temperatures amongst the high sand dunes of the empty quarter of Saudi Arabia to snow and hurricane winds north of the Arctic circle offshore Norway. Finally taking early retirement after the latest downturn in drilling activity in 2015/16. Living abroad has meant I've only visited Blundell's once, about 20 years ago, together with my wife and children. The kids are Danish and teenagers at the time so were flabbergasted at the requirements for uniforms, ties, jackets, calf-length skirts, and not least discipline! It was a good visit, and I was fortunate to meet Ted Crowe again while being shown around the chapel. Other than that, I attended a couple of OB events while living in Germany which was slightly surreal as I was already older than the parents of the other OBs; the Head pumped me for my thoughts on life at Blundell's during the late sixties and it was great to catch up with the late Paddy Armstrong, who as coach for the 3rd XV and the summer Athletics team had been a major influence during my time at Blundell's. I have now retired in a market town in Jutland, Denmark, and this is it, no more moves!"

Ross Hill-Brown (W 1969-74)

“After leaving Blundell’s in 1974 I served in the Royal Hong Kong Police Force as Chief Inspector. I finished the day before the handover to the People’s Republic of China (PRC). That same year my wife (Joy) and I migrated to Australia and have settled in Adelaide, South Australia. During this service, I received two Commanding Officer’s Commendations that acknowledged my professional ability, energy and devotion to duty of a very high order. In 1992, the year I got married, I received the Colonial Police Long Service Medal for long service and good conduct and in 2001 we welcomed a son into the world.



In 1999, I joined the South Australia Police as a Criminal Intelligence Analyst (an unsworn position). During my service, I worked as a Senior Analyst focusing on organised crime and money laundering.

I played a little low level rugby and then took up Archery holding the position of President of the Police Archery Club for ten years, which included being on the Hong Kong Archery Committee and a qualified national archery judge.

Since coming to Australia, I have focused on track and field athletics and have had some reasonable results winning State and National sprint medals for my age group. At the 2007 World Police Fire Games, held in Adelaide, I was part of the 4 x 400 Grand Master relay team which won Bronze.

In August 2015, having attended the World Track and Field Masters in France, while in England, I was involved in a head on collision that left me an incomplete tetraplegic, requiring rods in my spine. I was expected to never walk again. My rehab started in Southampton Hospital and finished in South Australia and I am pleased to say I did walk again! In fact, I have since won National medals for race walking in my age group. I have been designated a T36 para athlete which has seen me receiving State Medals for 100m, 200m and 400m in the over 50 category. Also SA Masters Athletics awarded me Best Athlete of the year 2017 and Flinders Athletics, where I am Vice-President, the Jacob Murray Medal 2017/2018 in part for my contribution towards working on a table to be used so that disabled athletes can compete against their able bodied counterparts on a level playing field.

When not taking part in my other “religion” I am an active member of our local Anglican church and Vice-President of our local Interchurch council.

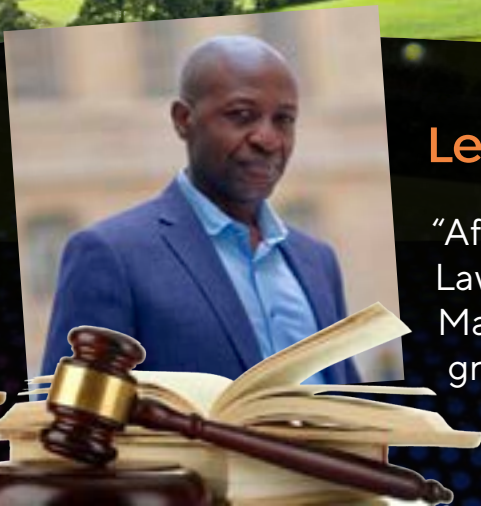
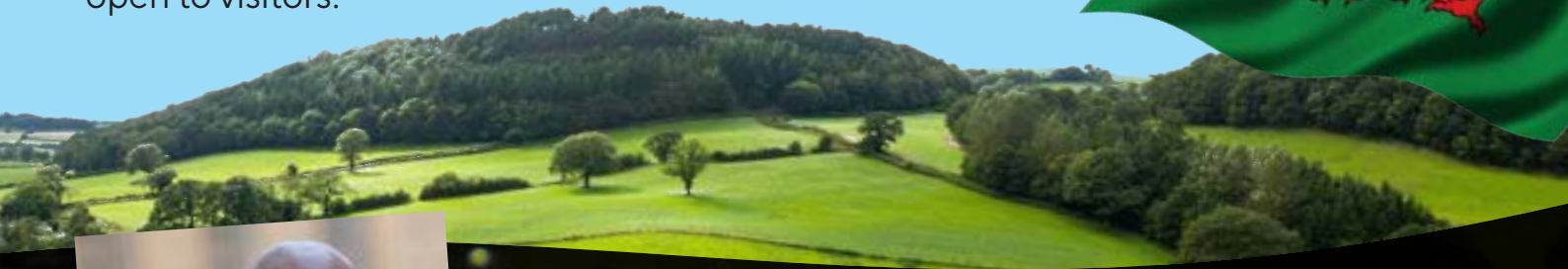


2020 saw the publication of THE EIGHTEEN POINT FIVE, a book in which I have contributed a co-authored chapter outlining my journey after my injury. The book as a whole shares the challenges, experiences and insights of people living with disabilities and disorders. Full details can be found at <https://eighteenpointfive.com.au/>.”

Jonathan Morgan (Former Staff 1984-96)

After finishing as Head of Economics from 1984 to 1996, Johnathan went to teach at Cardiff Metropolitan University. He went on to fundraise, mainly for mental health charities and raised upwards of £250K for these causes. He was made an 'Hon Welsh American' for his work with the North America Wales Foundation. NWAFF concentrated on sending young people to the United States to study subjects like art and music.

Jonathan has written five books and is now on his sixth book; 'Famous Politicians of Wales' which will be launched in the House of Commons. He currently lives in Brecon, Wales between the Castle Hotel and Brecon Cathedral and is always open to visitors.



Leke Adebayo (NC 1984-89)

"After Blundell's I attended Keele University where I studied Law and Latin. On completion, I went to Bristol Uni to do a Masters in Commercial and International Law. I eventually graduated from Law School in London and trained and qualified as a lawyer at City law firm Slaughter and May. But, I wasn't feeling fulfilled.... So, 4 years after entering the law (and after all those years of studying), I sadly came to realisation that it was not for me and I

had more creative aspirations. So, in 2003, I became a television "extra" with plans to eventually become an actor. Two years after that, (after 100's of rejections/no replies), I finally secured an agent as an actor who has been my agent ever since! And now, I will be appearing in a new comedy on Sky TV (Now TV Streaming) called BLOODS. First episode on Wednesday 5th May 2021. It has been an extremely difficult and tortious path, but one must follow one's passion and dreams. NEVER....EVER.... give up...!"

To see more of what Leke is up to, go to his website www.lekeadebayo.com and don't forget to tune into 'BLOODS' on 5th May.





Alex Halford

(SH 1989-99)

Currently a civil engineer specialising in flood risk, drainage, highways, commercial and residential areas.

Pier-Paolo Colombini

(SH 1991-94)

Living in France and working in Geneva for HP as Global Head of User Experience (UX) for eCommerce. 2 young children Elsa and Matteo (5 & 8 years old).



Will Palmer (FH 1994-99), launched his London restaurants, The 10 Cases and Parsons both within the last 10 years. The 10 Cases was opened in 2011 when Will and his business partner were 'fed up with static, predictable and overpriced wine lists.'

In his years of trading at The 10 Cases, they have never listed the same wine twice. Hence the name, they only buy 10 cases of each wine and when it's gone it's gone. Parsons, just a bit further down the same street, is Will's unassuming little fish restaurant tucked away in Covent Garden. Will now finds himself catering for customers nationwide using the online delivery platform 'Dishpatch.' If you ever fancy trying the food at Will's restaurants but couldn't commute to London, you can now order a home delivery!



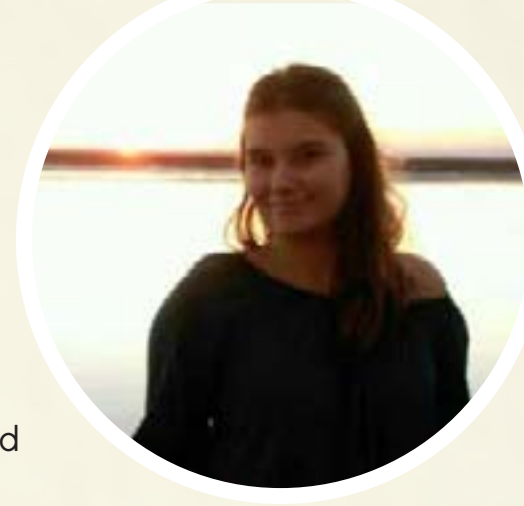
You can also check out Will's wine delivery business at <https://dropwine.co.uk/app/#/>



Sybil Dalmain-Jones (SH 2011-12)

"I am currently at University close to completing my five-year degree in early childhood and primary bilingual education. I have enjoyed doing various internships in schools working with a range of different ages. I have specifically been working on motivating the children to learn more and getting them involved with practical methods, such as, storytelling, gamification, cooperative and collaborative learning etc.

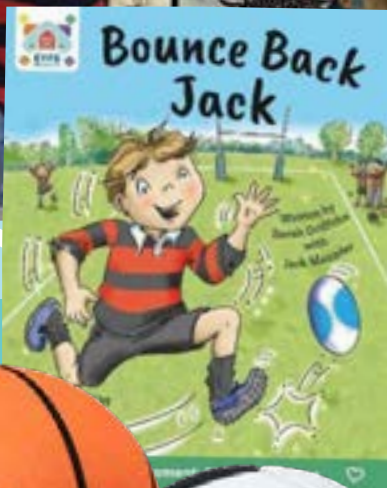
This past year I adapted to both virtual and in-class teaching throughout the pandemic. It has truly been amazing to have the opportunity to put into practice everything I learnt at University and my internships. I have also been working in a special program for children who have different types of difficulties with the objective of promoting the integral development of people with ADHD, autism, dyslexia, etc as well as the promotion of inclusion and the achievement of a higher quality life through Horse Assisted Interventions. While I have enjoyed traveling a bit throughout Europe, I am really looking forward to becoming a full time teacher and have a positive impact on the future generations."



Jack Maunder (FH 2008-15)

Exeter Chiefs Rugby player Jack Maunder launched his children's book "Bounce Back Jack," a story that motivates children, families, and carers to be resilient, 'to try, try again.' Bounce Back Jack inspires its readers to persevere with positivity and relentlessly keep trying to triumph. You can purchase the book online.

Jack teamed up with his fellow players such as Ben Moon, Jack Yeandle, Jack Nowell and Henry Slade to read the book online. Profits from the book will go to Jack's chosen charity, DS Active. You can find the book online and on major retail platforms such as Amazon.



Jack celebrated the launch by coming back to Blundell's Pre-Prep (virtually) to read his new book to the school's Nursery classes. He also held a ball skills, fitness skills and yoga activity online to these classes.



Birthday Greetings

following Covid Phone Campaign



The Development Office and OB Club are continuing to look at ways we can connect more personally with our Community as the Covid Telephone Campaign begins drawing to an end. We are excited to be offering birthday greetings to our Community. Everyone with a (known) birthday and email address will receive an email. And those with milestone birthdays (75+) will get a birthday card or telephone call.

We value connecting with our community on a personal level and sometimes it's the simple gestures of kindness and support that 'are the most important'.

"Once again, my thanks for your very kind call yesterday for my birthday, that was so kind and much appreciated. I had a very good day with a small Family lunch party and some presents of whisky which will keep me going for a bit! So I am extremely lucky. Bless you for your kindness it was a lovely surprise and as always great to have the contact with Blundell's. Keep well and stay safe."

- **Chris Wells (W 1943-47)**

"Many thanks for sending me a birthday card. It helps make up for the extremely rude ones I get from my family!" - **David Coplestone (P 1940-47)**
John Potter (OH 1950-54) who lives in Australia, in his OB tie showing off his most recent card



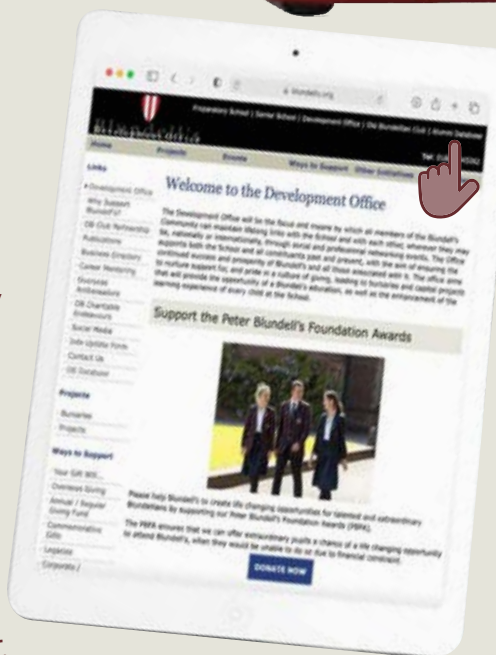
Old Blundellians Reconnecting Over Lockdown

Its lovely seeing former classmates reconnect with each other and the recent lockdown has certainly been a great opportunity to do so. We have recently helped to put Derek Miles (SH 1949-52) in touch with David Woodliffe (SH 1949-52) and also John Webb (NC 1951-57) with Chris Dunham (P 1951-56).

If you would like to get in touch with old friends, consider trying to find them on our Alumni Database. You can access this by visiting the Development Office or Old Blundellian Club website and click on 'Alumni Database' in the top corner.

If you do not know your password, you can request this or contact us for support. This is also a good opportunity to log on and make sure you consent to allowing your contact details to be searchable if you wish others to be able to find you.

If you have any problems logging on please let us know, we will be happy to run the search on your behalf.



Four Brothers Crossing the Atlantic Together



A team of four brothers are aiming to row across the Atlantic Ocean in 2022. They will be the first four brothers to row any ocean if successful. The “Friend” brothers are two sets of twins only 18 months apart in age.

Known as the **world’s toughest row**, the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge is one of the most demanding endurance events on the planet. More people have been into space or climbed Mount Everest than have rowed across the Atlantic. Why? Because it’s so much more than just a physical challenge.

Now older and following different career and personal paths, this challenge is the brother’s opportunity to restrengthen the bonds of brotherhood and raise money and awareness for causes close to their hearts.

In order to succeed, Jack, Hamish, Arthur and Euan will need to come together as a team to conquer the Atlantic Ocean and overcome the immense mental, physical and logistical challenge it will take to do so. If you would like to support them in their journey or learn more about the project, please go to: thefriendshipatlantic.com

(L to R): Arthur Friend (OH 2011-16), Hamish Friend (OH 2009-14), Jack Friend (OH 2009-14), Euan Friend (2011-16)

68th Alumni Cross Country Race

Fun in the mud was had by all

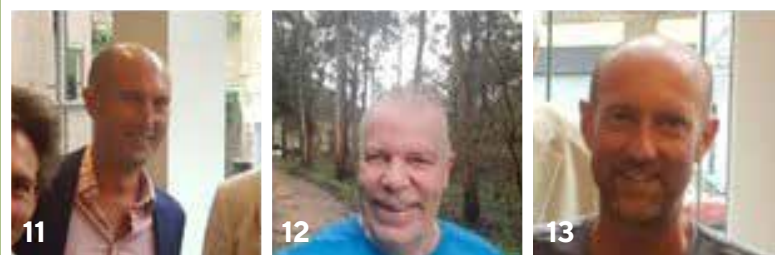
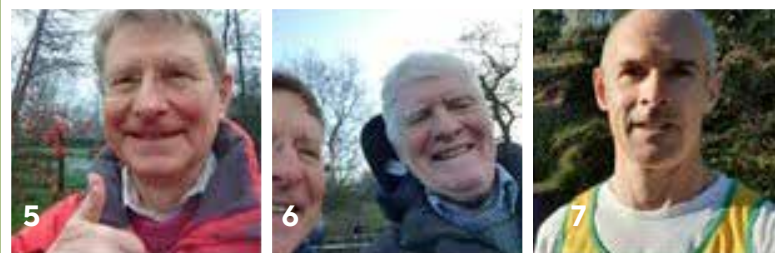
A record 12 Old Blundellians competed in this year's virtual race. Fun in the mud was had by all, across the whole of the UK. The Ladies team came a very credible third overall in the 'Old Johnian Cup' and easily won the W45 category while the Men's M40 team came 7th out of 30 schools. Giles Stimson (NC 1960-65) our de facto Alumni Cross Country President was beaming with delight at his team's best results. We will be doing it again next year, hopefully even faster.

On the 24th March, we also hosted a 'virtual Russell Race'. If you would like to be added to the email mailing list for future Alumni Cross Country Races, please email the Development Office

(L to R): 1. Sophie Wilson nee Peers (GH 1990-92), Rachel Palmer (GH 1990-92), 2. Lucy Fiddick (GH 1990-92) and 3. Martha and 4. Katharine Armstrong nee Babbington (GH 1990-92).

(L to R): 5. Giles Stimson (NC 1960-65), 6. Peter Price (W & TH 1958-63), 7. Rob Backus (OH 1986-91), 8. Mark Norton (TH 1980-83), 9. Will Holland (P 1986-91), 10. Tom Cumberlege (SH 1990-93), 11. Ed Palmer (W 1990-95), 12. Alastair Knight (NC 1970-74), 13. Peter Palmer (TH 1989-94).

(Not pictured): Will Palmer (FH 1994-99) and Cam Macpherson-Light (GH 1990-92)



The Journey of the Blundell's Colours Jacket

You may recall in a recent Popham Post that a Colours jacket was spotted for sale (£150!) in a stall in London by Lawrence Clarke (P 2017-19). Janet Wooff kindly took up the challenge of tracking down the owner from the nametag inside and with the help of Lawrence, the jacket was reunited with its rightful owner, Derek Miles (SH 1949-52).

Derek was awarded his 'Full Colours' for shooting in the summer of 1952 as a member of the team who were awarded the Grand Aggregate Trophy at Bisley. The whole school turned out to welcome the team back and the Headmaster awarded a half day holiday in recognition!

The jacket was understood to be second-hand when purchased from the School Shop and although the original owner is unknown the quality of the material suggests it might have been made before the second world war.

After leaving school Derek wore the jacket to various shooting events and even took it to West Africa on his first tour of duty in 1956-58. It is not known how the jacket made its way to the Vintage shop; however, Derek is delighted to be reunited with it.

Thank you to both Janet and Lawrence for helping to reunite the jacket with Derek.

Lawrence Clarke instantly recognised the jacket on sale. Well done to Derek Miles' parents for sewing the label in so well so it could be reunited with him so many years later.



**If you still have your Blundell's Uniform, can you still fit into it?
Send us a photo**

Blundell's Unique Uniforms

The Journey of the Blundell's Jacket promoted some of our OBs to show off some of the more unique uniform choices throughout the years.

Here is Nick Boothby (NC 1955-59) in a homemade Faux Fur Cossack hat with the Blundell's shield. Before Nick departed Blundell's in 1959, he bought a blazer badge but never got around to sewing it on his blazer. 60 years later, Mrs Boothby helped sew it into this hat to **'keep my near - bald head warm in Canada's bitter- cold winters'** according to Nick.

Obituary



Sir Peter Harper (W 1952-57)

“Peter Harper, who has died aged 81, was a world expert on the genetics of inherited neurological disorders, particularly Huntington’s disease and muscular dystrophy. He also advocated the idea of genetic counselling – helping people to understand the implications of inherited disorders that might affect them and their families.

Finding a genetic link between the two wasting conditions has led to highly accurate diagnostic and predictive tests for at-risk individuals and their families. While there is still no remedy, his work has contributed to an understanding of the underlying molecular mechanisms, providing hope that a cure will one day be available.

Peter was born in Barnstaple, Devon, and had what he described as an ‘idyllic semi-rural upbringing.’ He attended Blundell’s School from 1952-57, then Exeter College and Oxford, where he studied medicine.

He became drawn to genetics at Oxford, and, after clinical studies at St Thomas’ hospital in London, qualified in medicine in 1964, determined to embark on a career combining clinical medicine and genetics.

In 1969 they went to Baltimore in the US, where Peter undertook a two-year research fellowship where he developed a special interest in neurogenetics and carried out a study of myotonic dystrophy, in which half the offspring of a sufferer become affected. This established linkage of the condition to blood group markers called Lu and ABH. The markers and the disorder tended to be co-inherited within families, indicating that they are likely to be close together on the same chromosome, an important first step towards identifying the causative gene.

In late 1971 Peter became a lecturer at the University of Wales College of Medicine (now part of Cardiff University), and eventually established his own medical genetics department as a professor. As well as establishing genetic linkages with neurological conditions, in conjunction with other researchers in the US and mainland Europe he developed a clinical genetics service offering diagnosis and counselling that grew to cover the whole of Wales, and was housed in a new, purpose-built institute in 1985.

Peter’s approach built on the work of Sheldon Reed and others in the US, but placed new emphasis on the involvement of non-medically trained counsellors. In his book *Practical Genetic Counselling* (1981) he described an approach to advising patients

(continued)

and relatives that helps them to come to their own conclusions about possible future courses of action, rather than be directed by clinicians. He originally intended the book for GPs and non-specialists, but to his surprise it became a standard text for genetic counsellors worldwide, and is now in its eighth edition in many languages.

Peter's work also became important in attracting other researchers to Cardiff and he was pivotal in establishing a world reputation for Cardiff University not only in medical genetics but also in psychiatric genetics.

He retired formally in 2004, the year he was knighted, but continued to work as an emeritus research professor at Cardiff, writing mostly on the history of medical genetics and on ethics. He also maintained an interest in the Genetics and Medicine Historical Network, which he had set up in 2002 in order to make sure that the early history of medical genetics was not lost as its founders retired or died. The last of his six books, *Evolution of Medical Genetics – A British Perspective*, was published in 2020.

He is survived by Elaine, and their children and seven grandchildren.

Peter Stanley Harper, medical geneticist, born 28 April 1939; died 23 January 2021.

"Peter Harper discovered a genetic link between muscular dystrophy and Huntington's disease."

Old Blundellian Death Notifications

December 2020 to February 2021

(16.12.20) **David Lawrence Macey**
(M 1965-69)

(20.12.20) **Patrick Magill** (FH 1961-66)
(23.12.20) **Charles Campion** (P 1965-69)

(24.12.20) **Gordon Charles Kilbride
Gallagher** (SH 1937-42)

(2020) **John Frederick Barber**
(FH 1951-55)

(10.01.21) **Peter Hines** (OH 1958-63)

(23.01.21) **Peter W Harper** (W 1952-57)

(27.01.21) **Tom W Holden** (W 1949-54)

(28.01.21) **Kenneth Rolfe** (SH 1939-42)

(-.02.21) **Alan Charles Grey** (P 1946-49)

(10.02.21) **Bill Swainson** (OH 1948-52)

(25.02.21) **Charles Harwood-Matthews**
(W 1953-57)

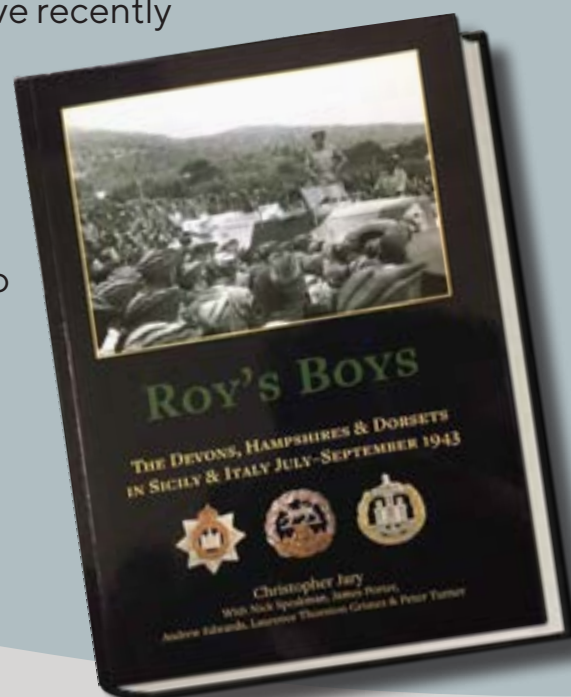


OB Authors & Book Donations to School

It's been fantastic to hear of all the recent OBs who have recently written and published books. We have been notified of at least 6 books just in the last 6 months!

If you have written a book, please let us know so we can add you to our website list of OBs/Parent Authors.

We also delighted to accept donations from Authors to the school library. Thank you for our most recent donation from Nick Speakman (NC 1950-55); 'Roy's Boys.' To view our list of Blundell's Authors, [click here](#):



Requests from the Archive



Motet Club in the 1950's: Have you got a copy of any of the recordings made by the Motet Club during the 1950s, especially the visits to Brussels and Darmstadt? This was clearly an important part of the lives of the boys who were involved under the leadership of Jazz Hall. The school wishes to keep an audio recording of these performances. If you have a copy, please let us know so we can make a copy for our archives.

Alex Camplin: Do you remember Alex (or Alec) Camplin, who was the electrician at the School from 1949 to 1971? Before working at Blundell's he lived in China, where he had several important jobs, and rubbed shoulders with people such as Mao Tse-tung and Chiang Kai-shek. There is an interesting article waiting to be written about this man, and anything you can remember could be very useful. Please contact Mike Sampson, Archivist (mjs@blundells.org) if you have any information.

Blundell's Rugby Information Pre-1823

We are investigating how rugby was introduced at Blundell's. We currently believe that Blundell's may have been one of the first institutions in the world to transition into the game of rugby as we know it today. If you have any information, either recollections from verbal stories or perhaps any archival pieces, please contact the Development Office. Any information you might have could be one of the puzzle pieces to help pull this story together.

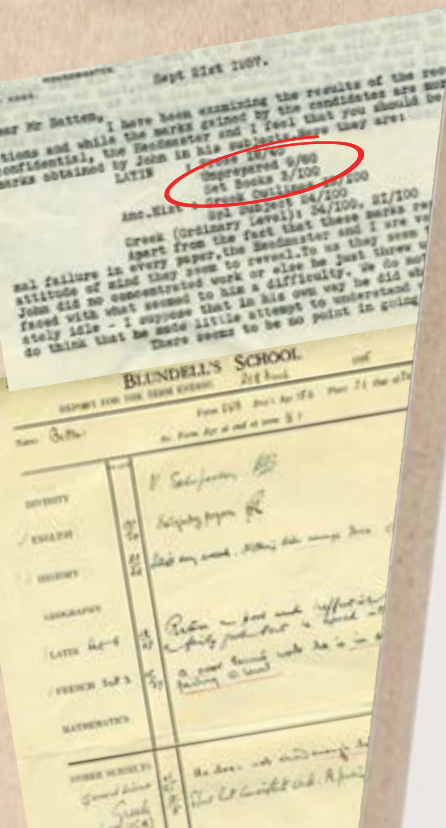


School Reports

Having asked our Old Blundellians to share with us some of their report cards from the past, there was certainly one that stood out: John Batten (SH 1953-58)!

Report cards do not necessarily indicate future success and for John, that was certainly the case. John Batten left Blundell's in 1958 and worked in investment banking in London, working his way up to Vice-President and later Director. He also worked as Company Secretary for a small merchant bank for a decade and did four years as MD of a small offshore bank. In his late 40's John 'decided he'd had enough of this largely formulaic activity' and became a professional photographer.

You can see his work at: www.johnbattenphotography.co.uk. John is also the Treasurer of the Imogen Cooper Music Trust, which helps young musicians. John is just shy of 82 and he still enjoys the occasional ten-mile walk, many of which he documents with photos.



Here is his 1955 report...

History: "Still very weak. Nothing like enough drive."

Latin: "Rather a poor and ineffective term's work. After a fairly good start he lapsed into his causal ways."

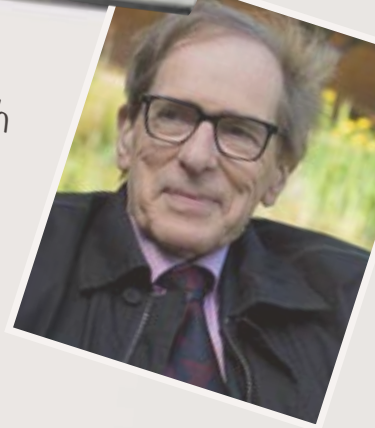
General Science: "He does not show enough determination to succeed."

Form Master: "A somewhat colourless performance: he has shown insufficient drive."

House Master's Report: "Sometimes have to be chivvied around to do the sensible thing e.g. putting on a coat before going out into a biting wind."

Headmaster: "This won't do. He is letting me down and I am becoming indignant."

Housemaster's Letter to John's Father: "Apart from the fact that these marks represent a most dismal failure in every paper, the Headmaster and I are very concerned by the attitude of mind they seem to reveal. To us they seem to show that either John did no concentrated work or else he just threw up the sponge when faced with that seemed to him a difficulty. We do not say he was deliberately idle - I suppose that in his own way he did what he could - but we do think that he made little attempt to understand what it was all about. There seems to be no point going on with Classics."



Magpies Lunch

The Magpies annual lunch was held on 'Teams' this year which replaced their annual London Lunch. The club's main objective is to support and encourage pupils' shooting activity at Blundell's and is still a very active club in our Blundell's Community.

The lunch was attended by 17 members and everyone was welcomed by **Host, David Bentata (FH 1951-56)** and **Club President Hugo Brooke Esq (NC 1949-54)**.

The attendees were also given a short presentation by Bart Wielenga and Barry Dawe MBE (Head of Outdoor Pursuits and CCF Contingent Commander).

Magpie Supporting Blundells: In place of their regular lunch fees, the Magpies have decided to make a collective donation towards the Blundell's Hardship Bursary Fund. The Hardship Fund was established in light of the impact Covid has had on businesses and families and the Fund to date has provided temporary assistance to a total of 30 families (45 pupils), amounting to £76,800 in assistance.



Q&A with Bart

Due to the popularity of our last virtual Q&A with the Head of Blundell's; Bart Wielenga, we are delighted to run this event again. Have you ever wanted to ask Bart a question or perhaps get his views on a topic? Now is your opportunity.

This is a free pre-recorded event, and we will send out a link to watch the Q&A on Friday 23rd April at 10am to everyone who has registered. The link will stay active to allow you to watch at your leisure; please book now to receive the link even if you are unable to watch on the day.



OB Club Winter Lunches 2021

The Old Blundellian Club are delighted that the much-cherished Winter Lunches are resuming this Autumn. They will continue under the management of **Sue Beale (Honorary OB)** and **Janet Wooff (GH 1980-82, OB Club Secretary)** and ably chaired by **Jonny Ison (SH 1963-67)**. The speakers, usually pooled from the Blundell's Community, are covering a wide range of topics, as can be seen on the event page at the end of the Diary.

Jonny, Janet and Sue would be delighted to welcome all members of the Blundell's community to these lunches, so if anyone is interested in receiving this monthly 'nourishment' for both mind and body then please contact Janet Wooff to be added to the mailing list.

Tel. 01884 232010 or E. obclub@obclub.co.uk

Upcoming Events <https://www.blundells.org/obclub/obclub/events.htm>

Events in purple: Prep School Events

 Academic

 Coffee Mornings

 Public Speaking

Events in red: Senior School Events

 Social Event

 Religious Service

 Theatre

Events in green: Blundell's Community

 Sports

 Music

** Ticket Only Event

Online events

TBC



Q&A with Rob Cole (OH 1970-75)

on his book 'The British & Irish Lions the Official History' Contact: Development Office devoffice@blundells.org

TBC



Q&A with Ben Collins (FH 1988-93)

on his book 'Aston Martin: Made in Britain' Contact: Development Office devoffice@blundells.org

TBC



Q&A with Robert Kitson (Past Parent)

on his book 'Exe Men' -The Rise of the Exeter Chiefs Contact: Development Office devoffice@blundells.org

April 2021

20th
TUE
Weekly Event



Blundell's Association Parent Running Group

6.15pm in the Prep School car park. Contact: Blundell's Association kjw@blundells.org

23rd
FRI



Q&A with the Head, Online

Contact: Blundell's Association kjw@blundells.org

May 2021

3rd
MON



Current Parent Tennis Club Evening

6.30pm to 8.30pm, Tennis Courts. Contact: Blundell's Association kjw@blundells.org

20th
THUR



1604 Society

Afternoon Tea with the Head for Legators. Online. Contact: Development Office devoffice@blundells.org

21st
FRI



Tour of Grounds with Harry Flower for Current & Past Parents, followed by coffee and cake in School Garden Café from 4.00pm. www.trybooking.co.uk/BAAR. Contact: Blundell's Association kjw@blundells.org

(continued)

June 2021

7th
MON



Parent Coffee Morning for Current & Former Parents [drop in]
School Garden from 8.30am-9.00am. Contact: Blundell's Association kjw@blundells.org

11th
FRI



Tour of Grounds with Harry Flower for Current & Past Parents, followed by coffee and cake in School Garden Café from 4.00pm. www.trybooking.co.uk/BAAR. Contact: Blundell's Association kjw@blundells.org

14th
MON



Parent Tennis Club evening [drop in]
Tennis Courts from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Contact: Blundell's Association kjw@blundells.org

Regrettably, the OB Club committee has made the decision that OB Day, planned for this June, has had to be cancelled. Alternative social functions for later in the year, are being considered.

July 2021

2nd
FRI



Speech Day and Leavers' Ball
Contact: Development Office devoffice@blundells.org

2nd - 4th
FRI-SUN



Devon County Show
Afternoon Tea Reception on 3 July from 2pm to 4pm. Contact: Development Office devoffice@blundells.org

2nd
FRI



OB Current Parent and Grandparent Speech Day Lunch
Contact: OB Club obclub@obclub.co.uk

24th
SAT



Mid-Devon Show

26th
MON



OBCC v Sou'Westers,
Noon, Big Field. Contact: OB Club obclub@obclub.co.uk

September 2021

19th
SUN



Blundell's Community Rugby Trophy Tournament and Family Day
Big Field. Contact: OB Club obclub@obclub.co.uk

26th
SUN



Reichwald Trophy Fives Tournament 2021
Fives Courts and Beale Centre. Contact: OB Club obclub@obclub.co.uk

October 2021

13th
WED



Charlie Olive (TH 1985-90, Current staff, Director of Community Partnerships)
Topic: 'Community Partnerships.' Contact: OB Club obclub@obclub.co.uk

November 2021

10th
WED



Debbie Hosking (Former staff 1999-2018 & GH House Mistress)
Topic: 'Anecdotes of Covid.' Contact: OB Club obclub@obclub.co.uk

December 2021

1st
WED



Jeremy Salter (Former Staff 1969-2001, Chairman of Tiverton Civic Society)
Topic: 'Neil Ghosh and the Jewel in the Crown.' Contact: OB Club obclub@obclub.co.uk







Blundell's

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