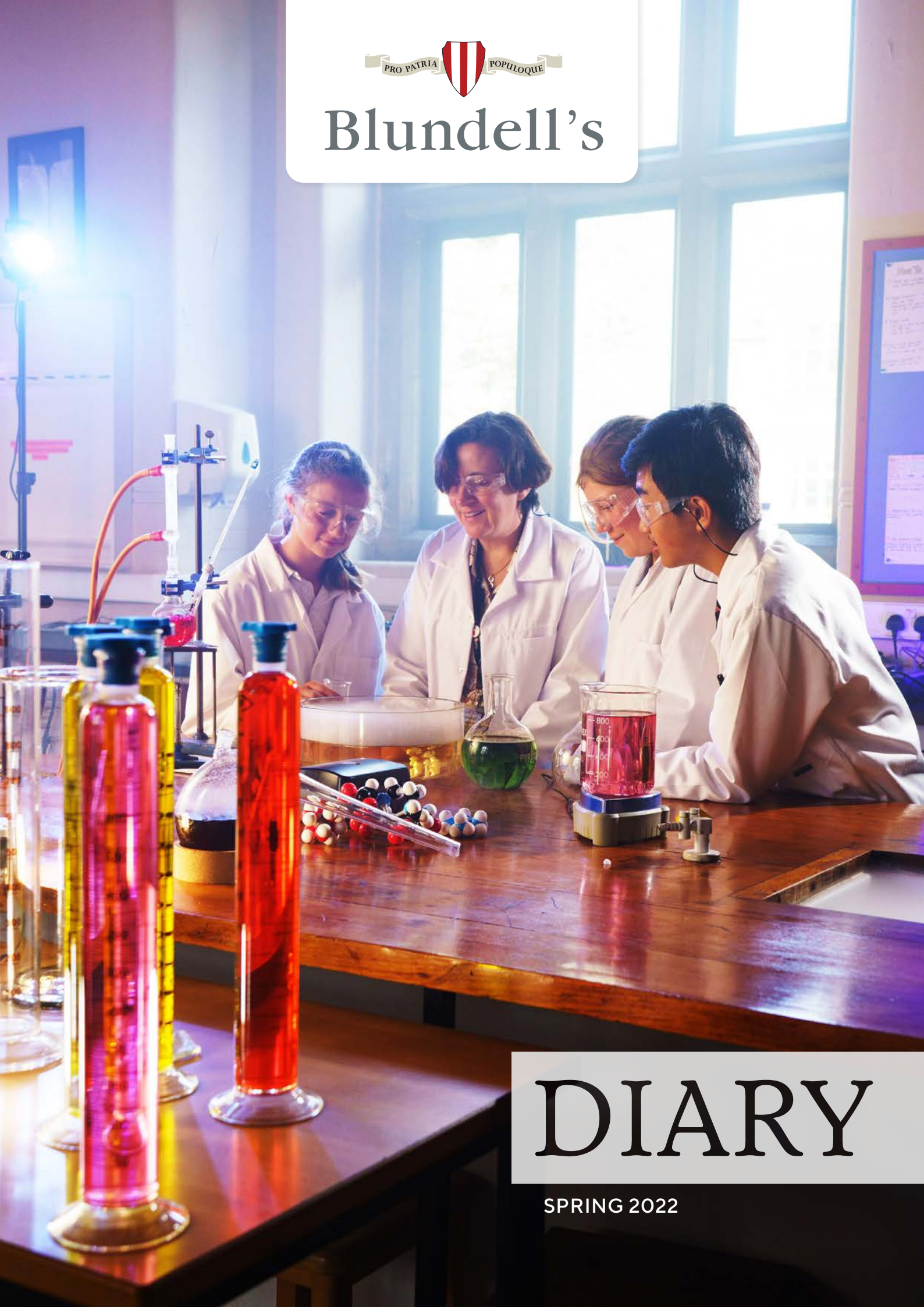




Blundell's



DIARY

SPRING 2022





# In this issue...

Introduction to the Diary from the Head 3

## Academic

Chemistry, Physics, Maths 4-5

Oxbridge, EPQ Exhibition, Enrichment 6-7

## Creative Arts

Art 8-9

Drama, Speech & Drama awards 10-11

Careers and Employability 12

## Music,

Concert, Blundell's in Space 13-15

## Sports

The Russell 16-17

Hockey and Rugby, Kayaking, Cricket 18-19

## Co-Curricular

Field Day, Clay Shooting, Charity and Volunteering 20-24

## Blundell's Community

Annual Fund Update 25

OB Day, Rugby, Winter lunches 26

Archivium, Twaddlers, Theatre 27

OB Sports 28-29

Announcements 30

Old Blundellians 31-32

Forthcoming Events 33-35





Quite often, the journey from Christmas to Easter can be quite a grim, dark period at school. The days are short, and the weather does not encourage pupils to be out and about. At Blundell's it is hard to imagine that to be the case, as these past three months have been as eventful and action-packed as ever.

I am occasionally asked what I like most about my role as Head of Blundell's and whilst there are many interesting aspects to the work I am involved with, there is one thing that still stands out for me, and it has not changed since the day I started teaching. I love seeing pupils completely engaged and immersed in what they are doing. Watching pupils do something wholeheartedly, with commitment and passion, is stirring, regardless of what that activity is. At Blundell's I get to see that every day and it is what gets me out of bed in the morning. I expect it is the same for many teachers.

This term we have enjoyed a number of musical highlights and we have become used to our musicians spoiling us with high calibre concerts. This term they reset the bar with the extraordinary extravaganza that was Blundell's in Space. With an opening welcome from Astronaut Tim Peake, and a running commentary by our recently-in-house Astrophysicist, Matt Lodge, we were engrossed in a performance of remarkable variety and quality.

Under the leadership of Dr Leaman and Mr Johnson our musicians worked incredibly hard to prepare for that, but every second was a joy and the two hours flew by. It was tremendous to include musicians from the Prep School, and also from Tiverton High School, St Peter's Prep School and Exeter Cathedral School.

On the sporting front we enjoyed remarkable success in both the boys' hockey and the girls' netball. Often the Spring Term sports play second fiddle to the Autumn Term sports, but boys' hockey has achieved unprecedented success including 1st XI wins against teams we don't often beat, including Sherborne and King's Taunton. It has been good to see the senior boys' success filter down and the U14's had a very good run in the West of England competition, narrowly missing out on a top 4 place on goal difference. Similarly, netball is enjoying a wonderful resurgence and an experienced 1st VII were one of the strongest teams on the circuit. The U14 and U15 teams also enjoyed great success and it certainly bodes well for the coming years.

We take great pride in our team sports, and not just at the elite end of the spectrum. The opportunity to represent the school in a team sport is fundamental to being a Blundellian and it is great to see that we can put out a 5th team in the senior girls' netball and a 3rd XI, and sometimes even a 4th XI, in hockey alongside four U18 football teams. On any given Saturday that means that just in the U18 category, close to 150 pupils are turning out in our colours on a Saturday – and that is before you include the U12's to U15's.

Of course, beyond that, pupils can test themselves in other ways too and this term there are two major events for which pupils are preparing. Both Ten Tors and the Devizes to Westminster International Marathon have been covid-affected but we expect a strong Blundell's representation at both. These epic challenges fit right into the ethos of the school and is echoed in our mantra that just because something is tough, it doesn't mean we shouldn't do it!

**Mr Bart Wielenga**  
Head





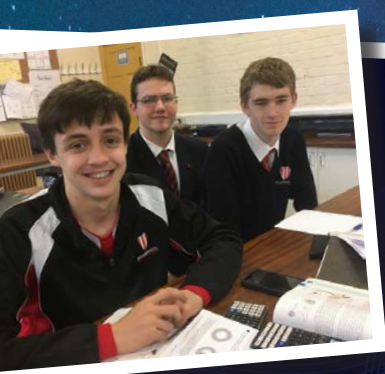
# Academic



## Chemistry

- The Chemistry Olympiad competition is the leading Chemistry competition for secondary pupils in the UK.
- Over 8500 of the best chemistry pupils in Years 12 and 13 took part in the competition this year, and Blundell's pupils have performed exceptionally well once more. The top 30% of pupils were awarded a silver, and the top 9% a gold. Blundell's achieved 7 silver awards and 2 golds. Gold Awards went to James and Rainer (both Year 12).

James not only achieved a gold award, but his score was high enough to place him in the top 34 pupils in Year 12 or 13 in the UK, and thus qualify for Round 2. This involves lessons and demonstrations on new topics from respected Cambridge academics, teachers and technicians, followed by a 4 hour theoretical test. Four of these pupils will then be selected to represent the United Kingdom at the International Chemistry Olympiad 2022 in Tianjin, China. This is a formidable achievement for James, particularly since he is in Year 12, and we wish him all the best of luck. This is the third year in a row that Blundell's has had a representative in Round 2!



## Physics

There have been 4 Physics Competitions this term, two online and two written papers.

### BPhO Physics Challenge

The paper is designed to challenge the best young physicists in the country. The paper was sat in November by two Year 13 and three Year 12 pupils, tackling this challenge in Year 12 is particularly impressive. James (Year 12) achieved a silver award, this puts him in the top 30% of entries.

### BPhO Physics Senior Challenge

The Senior Challenge saw our largest number of entries in years with 13 pupils attempting it. Out of 4000 entries from approximately 500 schools we have achieved fantastic results. 4 golds, 1 silver and 4 bronzes. Gold awards went to James, Oliver, Louis and Joshua. Special mention to James and Oliver whose fantastic scores place them both in the top 10 pupils in the UK in Year 12.





# Maths

## Senior Maths Challenge

57 of our very best Maths pupils from Years 9-13 sat the senior Maths challenge on Thursday 18th November. This is a high level of Maths, generally aimed at challenging A-Level Maths pupils. This year we were very successful with 7 gold, 6 silver and 16 bronze awards. Gold awards went to James, Shirley, Jane, Harry, Rainer, Edward and Louis. The top performing pupils were Edward and James, who not only secured gold awards, but also qualified for the British Maths Olympiad Round 1, for the top 1000 pupils in the country.

## British Maths Olympiad Round 1,

As a follow-on round to the Senior Maths Challenge, James and Edward both achieved Distinctions, putting them in the top 250 pupils in the country – a fantastic result. This is the first time we have ever had 2 pupils achieve at this level. Further to this, Edward's score was high enough to qualify him for the British Maths Olympiad Round 2, putting him in the top 100 of all Maths pupils in the country (any age up to Year 13) – an achievement that we have only seen three times in recent memory at Blundell's, particularly remarkable given he is only in Year 9!

## Intermediate Maths Challenge

66 pupils from Years 8-11 sat the Intermediate Maths Challenge in February. Over 50% of pupils achieved an award, with 5 Golds, 13 Silvers and 18 Bronzes.

The five gold awards were awarded to: Edward (best in school and 100%), Freya (best in year), Henry (Year 9), Hector (Year 11) and Angel (Year 11).



Other notable performances came from: Harry (Year 10) – best in year and a silver award and Terry (Year 8) – best in year and a bronze award.

In total, 10 pupils qualified for the follow-on Olympiad and Kangaroo rounds; another record!

## Senior Online Challenge

In total there were 4690 entries from approximately 272 schools. All of our participants this year achieved an award – 3 golds, 7 silvers and 4 bronzes. Gold Award winners were James, Josh and Oliver.



## IOC Intermediate Online Challenge (aimed at Yr 11 pupils).

Six Year 11 pupils took the part in the Intermediate Online Challenge. 156 schools participated, with 4,494 participating pupils. Rafael and Freya obtained gold (top 19% of entries).





## Belinda Kirk Event

We were fortunate enough to have adventurer and explorer, Belinda Kirk come into school last Friday. She delivered a hugely inspirational speech to our 6th form as part of their Enrichment program. Belinda has spent 26 years leading groups into the wilderness all over the world. These include numerous personal expeditions, youth development expeditions, biological research missions and remote filming trips for the BBC. She is a

Guinness World Record holder for rowing unsupported around Britain and this latter adventure is what she concentrated on when talking to our 6th formers. The message she delivered to them was centred around the huge benefits they could gather from adventuring, getting out of their comfort zone and that the transformational power of adventure cannot be underestimated.

Belinda then presented to parents at a supper and talk event where she spoke of the importance of family adventuring; again, getting out of our comfort zones and benefiting from the mental wellbeing adventure can bring us all.

**Mrs K Wheatley**

## Enrichment for Years 12 & 13:

This term's enrichment sessions have included an assortment of talks, led by departments and outside speakers. These have included a talk, 'Are we alone in the Universe?' by the physics department; 'Living and working abroad: discovering the world' delivered by the MFL department; a Judicial Awareness course led by Mark Horton, OB; and a visit from a local author, and our Film Studies teacher, Davina Quinliven, introducing pupils to her first novel 'Shalimar'.



## World Book Day

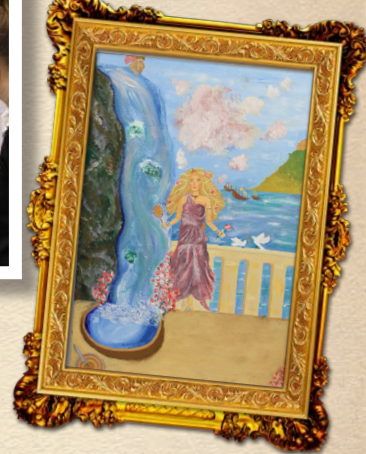
At Blundell's the school was alive with the joy of words, as pupils celebrated World Book Day: we have seen some incredible fancy dress; enjoyed inspirational creative writing workshops delivered by authors Jenny Kane and Alison Knight; had lessons interrupted with pupils bursting in to recite their favourite poetry in our Poetry Attacks, played games of Literary Cluedo in the school library; and even eaten a literary feast, with the dining hall serving up delights such as the Boeuf en Deube from Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse* and Bruce Bogtrotter's chocolate cake from Roald Dahl's *Matilda*.

**By Mrs Perrin-Haynes**



## EPQ Exhibition

On Friday 11th February five Year 13 students presented their EPQs during the Friday enrichment session. Year 11, 12, 13 students and staff were invited along to quiz the EPQ students on their research projects. Titles included the Hidden Mysteries of Sound, How accurate is Delacroix's portrayal of the 1830 French Revolution in 'Liberty Leading the People'?, A painting based on the Portrayal of Women in Renaissance Artwork Inspired by Classical Literature, an in depth study of Habitat, zoology, and the impact of human activity in small order streams in North Devon and finally an A level Maths lesson on Infinity (and beyond)! The presentation is an important part of the EPQ qualification and gives the students the chance to talk about their chosen topic and also to reflect on the skills they have acquired in completing an EPQ. - **Lucy Webster**



## Senior Inter-House Debating Competition

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Senior Inter-House Debating Competition on Tuesday 15th March. All competitors tackled the motions with carefully researched and cerebral arguments. The standard was extremely high and all teams offered thought-provoking and persuasive responses. Westlake (Bea, Kabir and Emily) won the award for Best House for proposing the motion: This House would return all cultural treasures to their country of origin. Emily from the same team won the award for Best Speaker! The runner up for Best House went to Old House (Jack, Chester and Finn) who proposed the motion: This House believes that freedom of the press is a myth. The judges, Miss Gore-Lloyd and Miss Whitfield gave brilliant feedback to all teams about how to signpost your argument and how to engage with your audience. Well done to everyone who took part; it was a very enjoyable evening.

## Junior Inter-House Debating Competition

Old House were triumphant at the Junior Inter-House Debating Competition on Tuesday 8th March; they narrowly beat Gorton House to win the trophy. Henry, Nico and Will opposed the motion: This House would make all vaccinations mandatory. Their complex arguments were driven by thorough research and were well-expressed by everyone in the team. A well-deserved victory! Tom from Francis House was the evening's Best Speaker. He skilfully engaged with the audience throughout his opening arguments which opposed the motion: This House would make everyone complete one year of military training at the age of 18.





## Year 12 Dinner

Following on from the successful Sixth Form Silent Disco last term, Year 12 were treated to a most enjoyable dinner in Big School in February. Ably assisted by some budding Year 12 event managers, the Sixth Form team arranged an evening filled with fun, laughter and enjoyment. After canapes and drinks in the foyer, the pupils were then wowed, as they entered Big School. The tables had been decorated with eucalyptus and ivy, warm candles and pretty fairy lights. The delicious meal was heralded by Grace, read by Izzy, and a Toast was made mid-way through by Fleur. Following cheese and biscuits, the entertainment began, as OB Alex Kitson, took to the floor, introduced by Dom, Zeb and Lizzie. Alex is a Bristol based award nominated stand-up comedian and writer. A rising comic, and a natural performer, he had the Year 12s entertained!



## Year 13 House Dinner

The Year 13 house dinner was a James Bond theme. Amazing turn out from the house, and some brilliant costumes with Dr Ratcliffe as a very convincing Bond villain, and Freddie as a very convincing Bond girl! Chrissie, Jill and the team of catering staff with Geoff and Ankur leading the way were, as always brilliant putting on an amazing menu that included canapés of Smoked Salmon and Oscietra Caviar, Duck Royale mousse with red onion chutney, Smoked Chicken vol-au-vents in Marie rose sauce, Goat Cheese mousse with mango chutney. The main was Honey & Grain mustard crusted Chicken Fillet with butternut Squash on creamed celeriac, Cavolo Nero and blackberry Jus, followed by 'La Bombe Surprise' - Baked ice-cream on Sponge topped with Italian Meringue and flambéed with Grand Marnier. The evening had Casino Royale playing in the background, with James Bond tunes, ending with a James Bond themed quiz. A great way to celebrate after mock exams! A big thank you to Matron Di, Emily, Tilly and Ella for setting it all up.

Mr Graham Bailly

## Oxbridge

We have been very proud indeed of the achievements of our top academics this year. Entrance to Oxbridge and the Ivy League schools in the USA has become ever more competitive with competition for places from all over the world. Kabir has won a place at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, one of the eight Ivy League Colleges in the United States. Dartmouth only accepts 9% of those who apply and many candidates have several attempts before they achieve success. Not only did Kabir achieve his place on the first try, but he was awarded one of their top scholarships to study Philosophy, International Relations and Music. Molly and Anna have been awarded places to read Law. Anna has been accepted by Jesus College, Oxford while Molly is going to Emmanuel College, Cambridge. The application process is demanding, and the two universities take it very seriously indeed. Candidates have to show commitment and passion for their subjects in their Personal Statements, excellence in their aptitude tests, as well as impressing a series of interviewers in the five interviews they had between them. These achievements come as a result not only of intelligence, but of academic commitment and an enthusiasm to broaden their understanding of their subjects through super-curricular study and thought. We congratulate them and wish them all the best for their futures.



## White Blazers

A huge congratulations to Hebe and Lottie who have received their white blazers. Full colours are awarded to a pupil for excellence in an area of school. When a pupil has achieved this three times, they are awarded the white blazer. This is the first time we have given the award since 2015. Hebe has received Full Colours for Netball, Hockey & Instrumental & Choral Music and Lottie was awarded Full Colours for Choral Music,

Netball and Drama. It is a huge honour for them to receive this in recognition of their hard work here at Blundell's. Well done girls!



## Castles Project

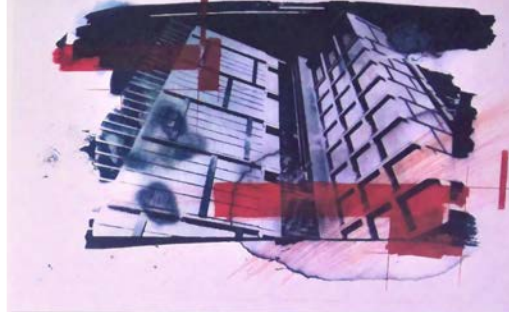
The Year 7's have been studying castles in History this term. We started off looking at Norman Motte and Bailey castles, looking at where and why castles were built where they were and out of what materials. We moved through history looking at the steady development of castle design as new technologies took hold and then wonderful new concentric castle design filtered back to England from the crusades. We also learned about castles around the world and why their designs differed from those found in England. We finished off with a look at the end of the castle age, particularly the advent of gunpowder, and what many of these castles are used for today. Year 7 immensely enjoyed learning about castles, and I was most impressed by the models that they made of their favourite type of castle- half term was a very productive time! Well done Year 7!

Mr P. Hayward





# Creative Arts



## Art: Spring Term

The Art Department were proud to show off the considerable talents of the Year 12s and 13s through Ondaatje Foyer in the Senior Art

Exhibition this term. Our senior students of Fine Art and Photography are required to submit 100% Coursework this year and have extended their learning with energy and a positive attitude. Media range from hand died, machine embroidered and embellished textiles to digital portraiture and oil paintings. The wide variety of approaches underlining the trademark individuality of our creative students. The first Blundell's Art Scholars Exhibition took place this term and is on show in Ondaatje Foyer. Scholars from Year 9 - 13 responded to the theme of "Domestic" and created Artworks from a hand printed fish T-Towel to woven sculptures and relief paintings. Some hard - hitting messages and considered risk-taking showing clearly why these are our most visually creative students and an inspiration to others of all ages.

Art evenings continue to be a big hit with Art students from Year 10 - 13. The students are able to independently use the facilities to drive forward their practice and experiment with less familiar media, extend work in the Trinity Arts Award, complete Art Preps or simply be creative. With music, coffee and a mix of the four year groups there is a lot of discussion, support and cross-year learning in a relaxed and creative environment.

This term our PGCE student Mabel Carrier joined Art to work alongside our students and gain valuable experience as part of her Teacher training. Mabel, from UWE, said "I am looking forward to spending the Summer at Blundell's and I am really grateful to be here." Working across several year groups in both Design and Technology and Art/Photography she has already proved a hit with the students.

Several of our Artists have been entered for The Royal Academy Young Artists Competition 2022. From Year 7 - 13 students have put forward work to be considered for the prizes and a chance to be exhibited in the Royal Academy itself in the Summer, a very exciting prospect. Our students work with such a wide variety of media and techniques, this is the ideal opportunity to get their work out there and seen. They will be up against students from all over the world so I am thrilled so many are taking a risk and are confident to be in the mix, regardless of the outcome. They have nothing to lose and everything to gain from getting involved.

**Mrs Armstrong Williams** - Director of Blundell's Art School

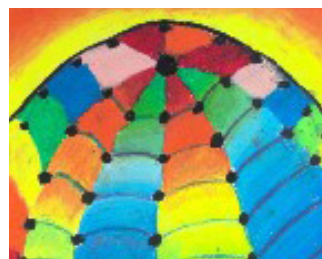




Jackie Lee  
2000-01



Senior  
Exhibition





# Drama

## School House Play

### The Wolves Of Willoughby Chase

It's hard to believe that the last time Year 7 and 8 performed on the Ondaatje stage was when our current Year 11s were in *Charlie & The Chocolate Factory*. That seems like a lifetime ago but we are all so excited to be bringing School House theatre back to live audiences.

If, like me, you read Joan Aitken's classic novel as a child, you will no doubt have been gripped by the mystery, the dreadful dangers and the daring escapes of two plucky young cousins who take on their wicked governess. With pantomime-esque villains and set in a time that never was when wolves roamed England, the story feels a bit like a Grimm fairytale or a Dickens novel, but it was the two heroines Bonnie and Sylvia

who really fired my young imagination. Some decades later, I discovered that Russ Tunney had adapted this story for the stage and when I read it, I found it brought to life once again and I loved the way that Tunney had picked up on Aitken's fast-paced action and the tongue-in-cheek humour. When choosing a play for our post-Covid-comeback, a play full of fun and adventure that showed young people being brave and resilient in the face of unexpected danger felt like a perfect choice.

Tunney's adaptation is very inventive, taking us on the same exciting adventure as the original novel, from Winter to Spring, from the countryside to the city and back again. A tale full of snow and wolves, of ships and trains, of secret passageways and geese, and along the way it never takes itself too seriously. We have tried to evoke the spirit of this thrilling adventure and capture some of the magic of the original book. In doing so, we have enlisted the help of so many people. As with any Blundell's production, this show has been a real team effort, from the support of the Marketing Department to the delicious interval treats from Catering, from the help of the Music teachers to the artistic talents of the Art Department and of course the colossal efforts of everyone in the Drama Department who so willingly give so much of their precious time to bring a play to the stage. And last but by no means least, my thanks go to our young cast. The virus tried its best to trip us up on the way, but the students worked hard to make up for time lost to covid-absences. The performance nights are the crowning glory to hours and hours of hard work that they put in to rehearsals and I really appreciate their enthusiasm and dedication.

**Mrs T Winsley**





# Drama Trip

Some of the A-Level Drama and Music students were extremely lucky to go on a busy and exciting trip to London, watching a collection of spectacular West End performances. On the first evening, we all went to see 'Back to the Future' at the Adelphi Theatre, a musical version of the iconic film. We were buzzing to be back in the theatre after so long, and this vibrant and exciting show was the perfect way to start the weekend. The next day we explored some of the culture that London has to offer including a visit to the Royal College of Music and exploring the Theatre & Performance Collection at the V&A Museum which houses a wide variety of exhibits from the original puppet used in the stage production of War Horse to an exact replica of Kylie Minogue's dressing room from her Homecoming Tour. In the evening, we all went to see 'Dear Evan Hansen' at the Noel Coward Theatre. The music was utterly captivating, and we were moved by the powerful and hard-hitting topics. Next the Drama students went to see 'Come from Away' at the Phoenix Theatre, a musical set in the week following the 9/11 attacks. The musical tells the story of what happened to the planes that were ordered to land unexpectedly in Canada. It was an interesting interpretation of the historical event, and the music was extremely moving. On the same night,

the Music A-Level students went to Piccadilly and watched Vivaldi's Four Seasons with the talented Fenella Humphreys. They then got a chance to talk to Fenella after the concert which was a great opportunity. They then went to a jazz bar in the evening, a very different experience, listening to different David Bowie and Joni Mitchell songs in the style of jazz. On the final day, the Drama students had a guided tour of The Globe Theatre, learning more about Shakespeare and his plays. This was an extremely interesting part of the trip, especially as some students are studying 'Romeo and Juliet' in their Drama A-Level. At the same time, the Music students went to see Evensong in Westminster Abbey. The beautiful architecture combined with the magnificent acoustic created a stunning performance. The final show that the Drama students watched was 'The Ocean at the End of the Lane' at The Duke of York Theatre, a mesmerising adaption of Neil Gaiman's fantasy novel. Immediately, the audience was plunged into a magical world using creative setting and sound. Overall, the weekend was so enjoyable, and we were all very lucky to watch so many phenomenal performances in such a short period of time.

Report by Eve Year 13



## SPEECH & DRAMA RESULTS

NAME	YEAR	GRADE	EXAM	MARK
Eve	13	8	Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Hebe	13	8	Speech & Drama	<i>Merit</i>
Alice	13	8	Speech & Drama	<i>Merit</i>
Finlay	13	8	Reading for Performance	<i>Distinction</i>
Daniel	13	8	Reading for Performance	<i>Distinction</i>
David	13	8	Reading for Performance	<i>Merit</i>
Prince	13	4	Reading for Performance	<i>Distinction</i>
Nick	12	6	Acting	<i>Merit</i>
Isla	12	7	Public Speaking	<i>Distinction</i>
Max	11	5	Reading for Performance	<i>Distinction</i>
Patrick	11	7	Reading for Performance	<i>Merit</i>
Finn	11	6	Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Daisy	11	6	Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Guy	11	6	Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Daisy	11	6	Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Evie	11	6	Acting	<i>Merit</i>
Alex & Georgia	11	6	Devised Drama	<i>Distinction</i>
Flossy & Bronte	11	6	Duo Acting	<i>Merit</i>
Harry	10	5	Reading for Performance	<i>Distinction</i>
Xav & Harry	10	4	Duo Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Amara	10	5	Acting	<i>Distinction</i>

NAME	YEAR	GRADE	EXAM	MARK
Jasper & Johann	9	4	Acting Duo	<i>Distinction</i>
Liv	9	4	Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Harry & Sam	9	4	Acting Duo	<i>Merit</i>
Jemima & Ophelia	9	4	Acting Duo	<i>Distinction</i>
Henry	9	5	Devised Drama	<i>Distinction</i>
Jacky	9	4	Reading for Performance	<i>Distinction</i>
Willow & Ollie	8 & 9	3	Duo Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Antonia & Wilbur	8	3 Foundation Medal	Duo Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Daisy & Sophie	8	3 Foundation Medal	Duo Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Brandon	8	3 Foundation Medal	Reading for Performance	<i>Merit</i>
Illiana	8	3	Speech & Drama	<i>Distinction</i>
Vivienne	8	4	Reading for Performance	<i>Distinction</i>
Mimi	8	3	Speech & Drama	<i>Distinction</i>
Angus, Charlie & Alfie	8	3	Group Acting	<i>Merit</i>
Owain & Leo	8	3	Acting Duo	<i>Merit</i>
Heidi & Wilf	8	3	Acting Duo	<i>Distinction</i>
Owain	8	2	Speech & Drama	<i>Merit</i>
Tom & Morgan	8	3	Duo Acting	<i>Merit</i>
Juliette	7	3	Reading	<i>Merit</i>
Lucia	7	3	Speech & Drama	<i>Distinction</i>





National Careers Week and National Apprenticeship Week were events students across all year groups could get involved in, with talks, quizzes and activities, designed to enthuse, engage and inspire. Our Year 11 took part in an Employability Day, run by Young Enterprise, with morning workshops on interview technique, CV's and a mock interview. In the afternoon, the students worked in teams to plan, cost and pitch a music festival, to a full audience of fellow students and employer judges. They showed excellent examples of teamwork, leadership and collaboration across the 5 teams. Team 'BOSH' were declared the winners and seven students were given prizes for their standout contributions (Guy, Alex, Georgia, Chester, Rocky, Jack and Daisy).

## Careers Talks

for our Years 11,12 and 13 were generously delivered by employers (many of whom are Blundell's parents) and subject specialists from universities; to help the students discover more about a wide range of careers, from Fashion Photography,

Fashion Communication and Games Design; Automotive Manufacture and Design; Psychology; Architecture; Media and TV production; Private Equity and Venture Capital; Healthcare and the Army. Students have reported being inspired as a result to 'take an A level in...' the subject, 'try some work experience' and 'choose as a degree'!

National Apprenticeship Week was launched with our Degree Apprenticeship Event; an important element of our Sixth Form careers advice and guidance programme. University of Exeter, shared information about their programmes across Engineering, Financial Services and Digital Technology and their plans for 10% of their students to be studying apprenticeships within the next few years, with more options in healthcare and business in the pipeline.

## Careers Carousel

Four employers took part in our Year 7 & 8 Careers Carousel, to talk about their work and career pathways. Students learnt about Careers in the Charitable Sector (Laura Robertson, Hospiscare) Careers in Film Making/Photography (OB Gareth Davies, Gareth Davies Media), Careers in STEM/Engineering (OB Billie Whyte, Jaguar Landrover) and Careers in the Government (Blundell's Teacher, Dr Hannah Perrin-Haynes, former Diplomat & Civil Servant). Careers information at an early age is key in raising awareness of the wide range of opportunities available, and it was wonderful to hear so many students report they 'learnt about jobs they'd never heard of before'.



## Classics Department Roots & Wings

On Wednesday Jan 26th, the Year 7s were treated to The Great Roman Mosaic Off Technical Challenge in Roots and Wings. The Classics department hosted the Year 7s for Roots and Wings and they had their very own Great Roman Mosaic Off Technical Challenge. Their challenge was to recreate the iconic 'Beware of the Dog - cave canem- mosaic from Pompeii. Split up into groups they had to decide how they were going to recreate this in their own unique style. We were very impressed with the 5 mosaics which were produced. Joint Winners were the makers of the Brown Dog breathing and surrounded by fire and the Purpley Blue dog surrounded by icicles. 3rd was the traditional Black Dog with the red cave canem warning. The final two were highly commended as their dogs were excellently crafted, just with an overambitious attempt at the backgrounds which were incomplete. Well done to all involved and prizes are winging their way to the top 3 teams. The following week on the 2nd February, it was the turn of Year 8 where they were introduced to the Ancient Greek alphabet. The main event, however, was a treasure hunt around school, where, having solved clues they had to find the correct Greek letter and work out what the Greek phrase it made meant. The Year 8s had great fun and enthusiastically solved the clues to reveal Archimedes' I have Eureka, moment. Well done to all involved and thanks to the Classics department who made these afternoons possible.

Mrs B Milne





# Music



## The Choral Concert

brought together all of Blundell's choirs into a varied programme of singing, including the famous and highly challenging Chichester Psalms, by Leonard Bernstein. It has been an extremely exciting year for choral singing at Blundell's, with the introduction of the new Prep School choristers as well as a growing partnership with the Exeter University Chapel Choir. It was fantastic to see pupils from as young as Year 3 singing alongside the senior pupils and further beyond that with our Exeter University guests. The Chichester Psalms was a superb achievement by the pupils, not least for the frantic changes of timing and tempo, but also learning the pronunciation of a piece entirely in Hebrew. Beth, Year 12, deserves a particular mention for her stunning soprano solo in the second movement. The whole concert involved over 120 pupils and it was inspiring to see so many young singers performing with such commitment and energy; I congratulate them all. I'm sure the pupils will join me in thanking all of the singing teachers and staff who helped contribute to such a memorable occasion. - **Mr Andrew Johnson**

## Congratulations

to Isabel and Oliver, both of whom were successful in their auditions for the National Children's Choir of Great Britain. They will join the Senior Choir in the residential courses this Easter and Summer.

## New Year Chapel Service

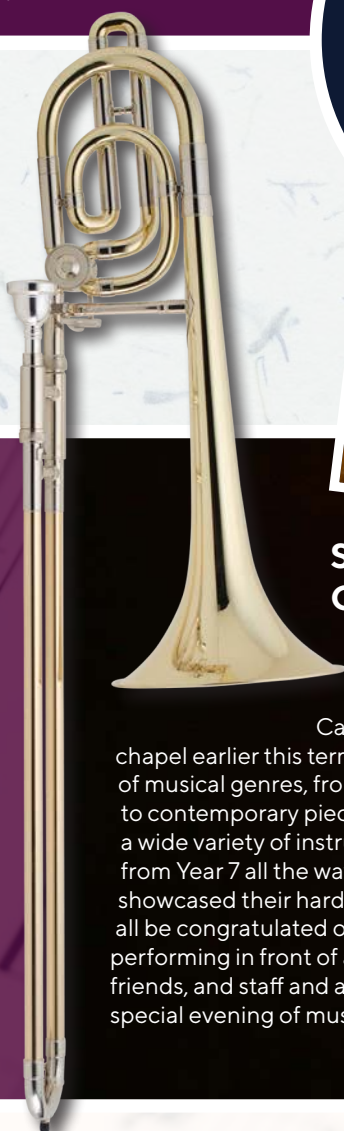
We started the term with a group of our Music Scholars who played an arrangement of Britten's 'New Year Carol' by our Director of Music, Dr Leaman in our beautiful chapel. Britten's piece was written in 1934 and forms part of a series of 12 songs for a school in Wales where his brother was a teacher. The collection was called 'Friday Afternoons' (that was when the pupils had their singing practice). Britten's piece uses a traditional Welsh folk tune that dates back centuries, connecting us to hundreds of new year's celebrations across time.



## National Pro Corda Chamber Music Competition – Semi Final

This term three groups from Blundell's performed as semi-finalists in the National Pro Corda Chamber Music

competition. The Prep School 'Cello Trio performed with impressive poise before the senior flute trio dazzled and amazed with intricate twists and turns of fluttering notes. The Year 9 quintet then performed an exciting and committed Rumba, bringing a flavour of Latin American sunshine to a very wet and grey day. The visiting adjudicator was very impressed with all the groups and commented how high the standard of music-making at Blundell's has become. Huge congratulations to the Prep School 'Cello Trio who have made it into the National Final.



## Scholars' Candlelight Concert

Our Music Scholars performed their absolute best at our Candlelight Concert in the chapel earlier this term. We had a wonderful range of musical genres, from baroque through to contemporary pieces, performed on a wide variety of instruments. Pupils from Year 7 all the way through to Year 13 showcased their hard work and they should all be congratulated on getting back into live performing in front of an audience of parents, friends, and staff and all enjoyed an incredibly special evening of music.



## Evensong

Our senior singers in the Blundell's 8 group joined with the Prep school choristers and singers from the University of Exeter Chapel Choir to sing evensong. The responses and psalm were sung with clarity and poise, but the real highlight was the anthem, where the choir sang John Ireland's 'Greater love hath no man'. It was an incredibly moving performance of a tricky piece and those assembled in chapel were fortunate to witness such a strong performance.





## Blundell's in Space

The highlight of the Spring Term has been Blundell's in Space Concert. The sheer scale of the conception and performance was, forgive the pun, "out of this world!" The afternoon saw a matinée for local primary schools, and we were delighted to welcome not only our own prep and pre-prep, but also pupils from Wilcombe and Heathcoat Primary Schools and everyone had a great time in a condensed version of the concert. Then the stage was reset, and the catering team worked their usual wonders ready for the evening performance.

From the moment British astronaut Tim Peak welcomed us to the start of the concert we knew we were in for something extra special. The staging, light show, extraordinary visuals and immersive multimedia turned Big School into an immersive exploration of our universe that was a feast for the senses. The international best-selling children's author James Mayhew provided astonishing live paintings full of mysticism and wonder, and former

teacher-turned-astrophysicist Matt Lodge exuded an infectious passion and wonder for the mysteries of the universe in his talks as we learned about its scientific properties.

And then, of course, there was the music. Featuring nearly 200 of the senior school pupils, alongside 100 guests from our own Prep School, St Peter's Lymstone and Exeter Cathedral School, the sheer variety and quality of the performances was breath-taking. From orchestral extravaganzas of Holst's Mars and Jupiter, Star Wars, Hans Zimmer and Dr Who, through to beautiful choral pieces by Ešenvalds and Björk. From the fun choir arrangements of Bowie, Elbow, Elton John and Chris Hoban to the serene piano duets and smaller chamber items of the planets. From the swinging jazz of the Big Band to the toe-tapping folk reel of the violins. From Mr Berrow introducing War of Worlds to the musical theatre solos from our Year 13s and the surprise of Cage's 4"33. Every single item was performed with passion, dedication and an extremely high level of skill which showed just how hard our musicians have worked in the months leading up to this event.

the mysteries of the universe, E Lucevan Le Stella from Tosca, with singing teacher Eamonn Mulhall reducing the audience to tears, and Eric Whitacre's incredibly moving and suitably enigmatic Deep Field, complete with audience participation in the form of the app to accompany the piece. The reception at the end of the concert from the audience was quite remarkable. The warmth and appreciation hit the performers in a huge wave and the ovation lasted for five minutes.

And to top it all off Darth Vader and one of his Storm Troopers ensured order was maintained throughout. The collection for the school charities in their helmets at the end of the concert raised nearly £1000, an amazing amount. The 350 audience members and the students left the concert on a high, buzzing with the energy and excitement of a truly special evening. Blundell's is truly lucky to have such a dynamic Music Department and we thank them for their dedication, hard work and vision for our pupils that produced an occasion that transcended a school concert and became an artistic production of supreme professionalism and mind-boggling ambition.

**Jessica Atkins**

The concert came to a close with three haunting pieces; the Unanswered Question with its beautiful depiction of







## Open Mic Night

Immediately after evensong, the pupils put together and performed an open mic night of impressive quality in Ondaatje. These occasions are organised by the students themselves and performed to a student-only audience. The ownership they have taken of these gigs is very impressive and there were some very fine renditions of a whole variety of popular music.

Special mention must go to Finn (W) who masterminds the whole event. He has a wonderful ability to galvanise his peers into action and he compared the evening with maturity and calmness. Thank you also to Mr Gerolemou for setting up and tech-ing the sound on the night.



## Music in the Castle

On Friday 18th March a group of Year 7 and 8 musicians visited Powderham Castle's music room to watch a concert given by the Brass and Woodwind ensembles of Wells Cathedral School. Many of the students from Wells that were performing will undertake further music education after leaving school. They played a large variety of music and also discussed each instrument and its history. Our students particularly enjoyed hearing their trumpet fanfares – a topic we studied last term. It was a wonderful afternoon, which was both inspiring and insightful.



## Blundell's Performer of the Year – Heats

The Music Department has been alive and vibrant with the sound of so much music as 76 pupils took part in the heats of the Performer of the Year competition. Each pupil is hoping to win their heat in 5 instrument categories, each with a beginner, intermediate and advanced subcategory. The standard has been unbelievably high, and our external judge has a very difficult task ahead of them. The winners will compete in the concert final on Tuesday 29th March.



## Music in the Community – Margaret Allen Care Home

On Monday a group of students visited the Margaret Allen Care Home in Tiverton to play music to the residents. It is a trip that has been delayed many times as the pupils got Covid, the staff got Covid, the residents got Covid, the recent storm blew down a tree and so on and so on...! However, we finally made it and the toes were tapping and the hands clapping along to some excellent and thoughtful performances from our pupils. We will be returning at the start of next term for some show tunes, as requested by the residents. Thank you to Eve, Kabir (Year 13), Alex, Jack, Finn (Year 11) and Elizabeth (Year 12)

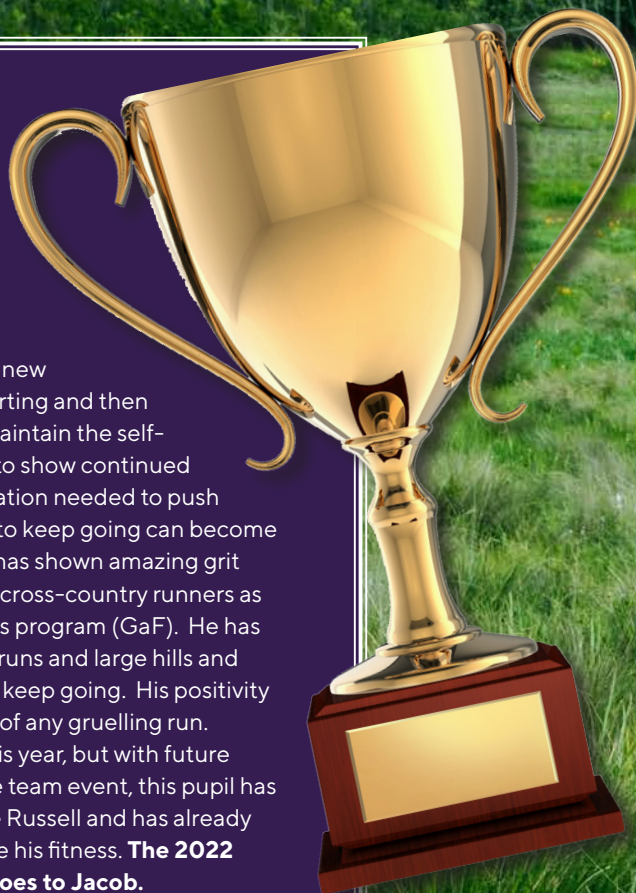






## Berry Barker Ballance

This year the trophy goes to a boy who has embodied what running cross-country is all about. most pupils the thought of a cross-country run would fill them with dread. With every new runner, the hardest part is starting and then another level is required to maintain the self-discipline and effort needed to show continued improvement. The determination needed to push through the pain barrier and to keep going can become overwhelming but this pupil has shown amazing grit and resolve when joining the cross-country runners as part of the Games and Fitness program (GaF). He has remained undeterred by 10k runs and large hills and has always pushed himself to keep going. His positivity has never faltered at the end of any gruelling run. Taking part in the Fun Run this year, but with future aspirations to make it into the team event, this pupil has encapsulated the spirit of the Russell and has already made great strides to improve his fitness. **The 2022 Berry Barker Ballance cup goes to Jacob.**



TROPHY	YEAR	WINNER	HOUSE	TIME
School House Boys Winner		Tom		17:07
School House Girls Winner		Edie		19:10
Junior Girls House Team on Russell day	Y9-10		North Close	
Junior Boys House Team on Russell day	Y9-10		Old House	
Senior Girls House Team on Russell day	Y11-13		Gorton House	
Senior Boys House Team on Russell day	Y11-13		Old House	
First Junior Boy	Y9-10	Zinzan	Y9 Old House	26:42
First Junior Girl	Y9-10	Daisy	Y9 Gorton House	30:59
First Senior Girl	Y11-13	Ylva	Y12 North Close	43:57
Second Senior Girl	Y11-13	Bella	Y11 Gorton House	
First Senior Boy	Y11-13	Ben	Y12 Old House	33:34
Second Senior Boy	Y11-13	Archie	Y12 Old House	34.41
Boys Cumulative House Points Cup	based on points from all races		Old House	
Girls Cumulative House Points Cup	based on points from all races		Gorton House	



# The Russell

## 2022 – Results

From Mr Wheatley

This has been a great year for the Russell, with many runners starting to show their strength in cross-country. Gruelling conditions tested all on Saturday, and there were some surprisingly quick times. The SH runners have shown that there are a number of future Russell contenders in their ranks, and it was a highlight of Saturday to see Tom and Patrick fighting it out for 1st and 2nd position in the SH run with only 17 seconds separating them. Jemima managed to keep Edie in her sights, but in the end Edie finished the course in a very impressive 19 minutes 10 seconds.

The girl's competition this year was closely fought in the junior ranks with GH and NC only being separated by 2 places. In contrast the senior girls event was a much more convincing story. Daisy had an extremely impressive run in the junior girl's event and she still has another year left in the junior girls, which makes her win even more impressive. It was a Year 12 that triumphed in the senior girls race and Ylva's power and stamina shone through as she cleared the line a minute and a half ahead. It was also fun to watch the relief on many Year 13s faces as they crossed the finish line for the last time in their Russell careers.

The junior boy's competition was closely fought all the way to the end with only 5 positions separating 1st and 3rd. Petergate's improvement was notable; they finished 3rd in the 1st Practice, second in the 2nd practice and 1st on race day so the final averages made for a very close finish in the junior boys competition. Zinzan also has another year left in the junior competition and he will no doubt be aiming for a second win in a row next year. The senior boy's field was much more spread out and Petergate and FH had left themselves a lot of catching up to do on race day. I think we would all have loved to see Zinzan race against the senior boys winner, Ben, but we may have to wait until they both become OBs before that battle is fought. The Case twins again finished in consecutive positions (3rd and 4th) and neither was tempted to nudge the other into the canal so peace and harmony remains in the Case household.

All of Year 13 can now rest easy that they will never have to take on the mighty Heartbreak Hill again. Many do however return later in life and Sam, a recent OB, produced a time of 32:16 in the Open race thus completing each kilometre in just under 4 minutes, which even the most seasoned of athletes would struggle to do on flat, even roads.

Face plant of the day goes to Mr Smart whose tired legs let him down as he neared the end of what is always a very rigorous course.

As always a huge thankyou to everyone involved, especially the staff on the day who marshalled and helped on the finish line. Mr Morrison has, again, shown his technical genius and worked tirelessly on Saturday to get the results organised and published. Time to start training for next year...





# Sports

## Rugby



Blundell's has enjoyed another successful sevens season this term, with even more players engaging with the sport than in previous years. Although a combination of covid and bad weather has meant we have missed out on playing as many tournaments as usual, it was excellent to see all the sides, U13, U14, U16 and U18 boys and girls, competing at Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens. This was especially true for the Y13 players, who have missed out on two years of competition. This was their final opportunity to show off their talents and challenge themselves on a national stage. The hours of endeavour, application and sheer hard work that goes into this variation of

rugby, which is lung busting, energy sapping and utterly exhilarating, is quite remarkable. The performances that all the teams produce at this international event was simply inspiring. The efforts and willingness of the pupils to push themselves to improve, and the resilience that they learn from their experiences, are great life lessons for the future.

Good performances at Rosslyn across the age groups came off the back of earlier tournament successes. The U18 boys were finalists in the South West, as were the U16 boys. Our U14s won the Devon Sevens Cup and the U15 team were runners up in their competition. The U18 girls played some outstanding rugby at the Clifton College event and we were able to fulfil an U15 Girls fixture against Maynard school for the first time. When it comes to Rugby Sevens at Blundell's there are plenty of positives to celebrate. - **Mr S Johnson** Head of Rugby

## Equestrian

Spring Term has been a busy time for our Equestrian Team. With not many competitions available to us in the Autumn Term, we were fortunate to be able to compete in four NSEA qualifying competitions and we introduced three of our Prep school riders into the realms of Blundell's Equestrian Team with entries into a Grass roots competition held at King's Sedgemoor Equestrian Centre. We had two Eventer's Challenges and two Show Jumping events held at Bicton Equestrian and Pontispool Equestrian Centres. 12 of our riders took part over the various events with some qualifiers for National championships. At Bicton Eventers Challenge, where riders have to tackle a mix of both show jumping and cross country style jumps in an arena, Jess had a 4th individual place in the 90cm and the team of Jess, James and Harry came 2nd. At Bicton Show Jumping, Ruby came 4th individually in the 1 metre class, qualifying for the National Championships in October and the team of Molly, Ruby, Jess and Lucy qualified for the 90cm Hickstead Championships in May. Our younger members did themselves proud over tricky courses at their first event. Georgie came 3rd in her event and Georgie Max and Mattie were amazingly brave over a tricky course at Kings Sedgemoor 60cm team competition - a great day and a team to watch for the future.

### Show jumping at Pontispool, Taunton

**80/85 Team.** The day started with mixed fortune for our 80/85 Team of Daisy, Harry and Issy. The early class did, however, allow a warm up for our competitors to set them up for the next class.

**90/95** Jessica enjoyed a competitive round on her first ride of the day, than Jessica went on to help secure qualification for the Team with her second ride, alongside Daisy, Harry, and Izzy. The team are growing with experience, each time they compete, as for Issy this was the first time at 90 and only the second attempt for Harry on a new horse. The team have qualified for the Plate competition held at Keysoe.

**The 100/105 Team** consisting of Molly 4th Ind, Ruby 3rd Ind and Mattie 5th Ind established a confident lead early on in the competition, which they maintained to win and qualify for the Championships also held at Keysoe

**110** Mattie continued her success building from the previous class by successfully being placed 2nd in the 1m 10 and therefore also qualifying as an individual at this height at the championships. Thank you to all the parents and connections who support Blundell's at these events.



Ruby flying to 4th place to qualify for National Championships at Keysoe



Izzy collecting her rosette in atrocious weather!



Jess on her way to 4th place at the Eventers Challenge



Georgie, Max and Mattie at Kings Sedgemoor



# 1st XI Boys' Hockey

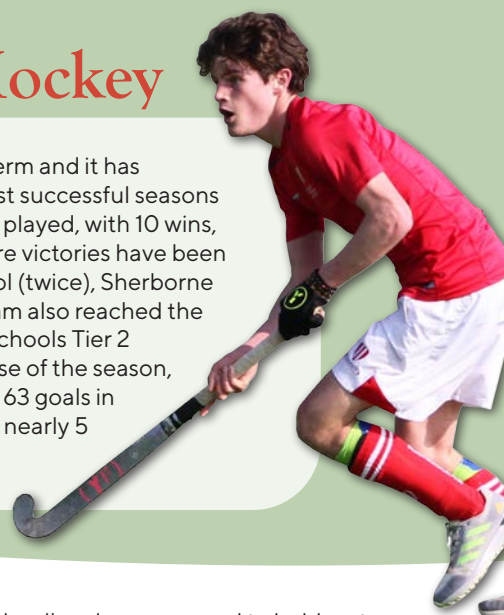


## Cricket

Well done to Pippa who has been selected by Southern Vipers Cricket Team as a player of interest.



The boys have had a busy term and it has proven to be one of the most successful seasons ever. 13 matches have been played, with 10 wins, 1 draw and only 2 losses. Rare victories have been recorded over Exeter School (twice), Sherborne and King's Taunton. The team also reached the 4th round of the National Schools Tier 2 competition. Over the course of the season, the team scored a stunning 63 goals in total, which is an average of nearly 5 per game!



## Netball

### U14 South West Regional Schools competition

We travelled to Bournemouth to take on the other best U14 teams in the south west, we started well and we managed to hold on to our lead with a win 6-5. We then moved onto Godolphin school, the girls were behind at half time but we were able to turn the game around and win by a single goal. Unfortunately, this wasn't enough for a qualifying place, this is one of the best performances of any Blundell's team at this level and the girls performance was beyond expectations. It was a fantastic experience for this group of young netballers and hopefully this will be something they can continue to grow and improve on each year.

### U15/U16 East Devon End of season tournament (Hosted at Blundells)

U16s – came 2nd. An excellent afternoon from the U16 girls (a squad made up of U16 girls who are playing in the 1sts, 2nds, 3rds and 4ths). They won 4 out of the 5 games they played. This is the first time they have played a competitive match together since Year 9 and they very much enjoyed the experience.

**Wednesday U19 End of Season Tournament.** The final fixture for our mighty 1st team and for many of our year 13 players. They came together as a team and although not always playing their best netball they were still the overall winners on goal difference!



## Blundell's Equestrian Team support to British Red Cross

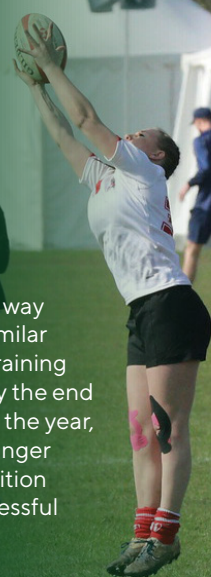
Thank you to everyone who supported the School's Equestrian Team stall at The Russell, the event raised over £700 to support entries into the National School's Equestrian Association (NSEA) competitions and Championships. However the Team's committee really felt that it would be appropriate for this money to be split between School Equestrian activities and aid for humanitarian missions in Ukraine. Therefore, the Team will donate £200 to the British Red Cross to support their work with refugees in Ukraine.



## Girls Rugby

This term has seen a rejuvenated Girls rugby programme at Blundell's and both the U15's and Senior rugby teams have flourished. The senior girls have been outstanding ambassadors for the school both on and off the pitch. The girls have trained hard all term and been rewarded for their efforts! The team worked hard on their organisation and defence and this paid off at the very popular Clifton College Festival in which the girls won 5 out of 6. This gave the team a huge confidence boost and really motivated the girls to train hard for Rosslyn Park - seeing the teams improvement sky rocket! Rosslyn Park was hugely exciting for the team, and the girls did not disappoint, playing extremely well and managed to play all the way to the Quarter-Finals against St Helens. The Juniors showed similar improvement, starting with no rugby experience at all. Lots of training and two matches grew from 5 players in January to around 15 by the end of the term. With the girls now able to play rugby in two terms of the year, both staff and girls are very excited about how this excellent younger team may improve next year. Girls rugby is in a very exciting position at the moment and we all look forward to a very steep and successful upward curve in years to come.

Mr R Holman



## Kayak Racing Squad

The kayak racing squad has had a strong term, with four crews taking part in the five preparation races for Devizes to Westminster at Easter. The scenery ranged from ducks on the Kennet and Avon canal to the majestic swans on the banks of the River Thames up the Henley straight. The longest race was 23 miles with over 30 portages to navigate by 200 boats. Connie and Barney were the fastest mixed school's boat in four of the races and all of the crews have seen major improvements throughout the term and will be serious contenders in the School's competition. Each crew has faced challenges and learnt to manage various injuries to progress to where they are now, with mental preparation as important as physical. Now, with only a few weeks to go before Devizes to Westminster, we (and our invaluable support teams) are excited for the 108 mile challenge ahead.

Written by James and Lilinka





# Co-Curricular

## Field Day

The school attended a variety of outdoor and curricular activities on Field Day. Year 7 have a very informative day at Plymouth Aquarium whilst Year 8 travelled all the way to the Eden project in Cornwall, which though a long way to go, it was thoroughly worth it once they arrived. Year 9 went to Channel Adventure in Taunton and completed a day of outdoor activities and gained their First Aid qualification. Year 10 CCF were also out on adventurous activities ranging from a High Ropes course at the River Dart and Bushcraft at Taunton Adventure. Year 11 were challenged in school with a variety of STEM activities delivered by the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. Whilst Year 12 were in various locations around Tiverton providing much needed help in the community. Whilst all this was going on Year 13 made the most of the peace and quiet in school to revise for their forthcoming exams, though the geographers managed to get out for half the day with Mr Bucknell and Mr Hamilton. The Ten Tors groups spent a bitterly cold night on Dartmoor but managed to walk 40 kilometres and seeing parts of Dartmoor not seen in their training so far. Though a very busy period, it was enjoyed by pupils and staff alike.

- Mr Dawe Head of Outdoor Pursuits



## Year 12 Community Partnerships Field Day

For the Spring Term Field Day this year, Year 12 took part in a range of activities supporting local projects, organisations and charities. It is so important for young people to experience life outside the classroom. Interacting with those around us, in the wider community, outside of the usual school routines is a vital part of development for young people. It is easy to put a pound in a pot to support a charity but to actively engage with it in a practical way brings a whole host of benefits and reward for those involved. This practical involvement was the focus of the day and often leads to further volunteering to support others in the future. The following activities took place:

### Hospiscare

One group travelled to Exeter where they undertook many different jobs for Hospiscare including clearing a patch of hard standing for staff to use as a seating area away from their work, prune and clear a patch of scrub land of rubbish which had become unmanageable due to weeds and blackthorn. After lunch they started to clear a prefab building from which stuff went to a number of different skips as well as to the shop for selling. They also filled a large container of items needed to be stored. All this work was hard graft and tiring. Nobody complained despite some of the tasks being dirty and with old rubbish that had been lying down outside for many years. They also got a good idea of how Hospiscare support patients and families in end-of-life care. An amazing day!

### Tiverton Adventure Playground

A huge thank you must go to Jewson for donating 10 tons of hardcore and to Eagle Plant for giving us a digger for the day which was driven by a member of the Blundell's Grounds Team. This allowed us to clear a badly flooded section of the main track at the TAP, lay a new drain and then cover with the hardcore. All 10 tons needed to be barrowed into place and then levelled by hand. 14 Blundellians worked incredibly hard to get this job done by the end of the day and leave time to clear an area of bank for a slip and slide. Massive thanks to Jewson and Eagle Plant Hire.

*"Please pass on our thanks to everyone who took part in the day. We are so grateful for all of the work that was achieved by your young people. They worked so hard all the way through and achieved an amazing amount of work. They are a credit to your school. I look forward to working with you again in the future should the opportunity arise."* Tony, TAP Manager.

### Wilcombe Primary School

A team of 10 Year 12 spent the day at Wilcombe Primary School in their amazing outdoor area. They cleared a massive space behind a roundhouse of brambles so that a greenhouse can go in, painted a shed and cleared another area of the garden for the SEND class. By the end of the day they had filled a skip and built a brickwork spiral herb garden.





## Little Heroes, Will's Wood

The Will's Wood group got busy repairing paths and preparing for the opening of the Cabin Retreat as well as clearing wood and putting up bird boxes. They returned after lunch to sort through items in support of a CHAT online charity auction by uploading them on to their website.



## Tiverton Hospital Wildlife Garden

A group of eight lads worked incredibly hard throughout the day. Banks were cut back to allow new growth, fallen trees were cleared, with log piles left to form new habitats. Overgrown wildflower beds were resurrected, and we also teamed up with Plant Rotary, planting purple crocuses and pandemic memorial daffodils. Picnic tables used by staff were also painted.

## Churches Housing Action Team (Chat)

The day started with shopping for CHAT with money they gave us to buy items on the shopping list for their food parcels. Following a visit to the CHAT offices and a tour behind the scenes of how things work the shopping was offloaded and packing up 52 Easter hampers and some clothes for refugees were also sorted out. Back at school in the afternoon the group had a Teams call with 2 fieldworkers from the Bhambayi Project in South Africa. The aim of the conversation was to build our connection with the project that Blundell's is supporting. It was also particularly impressive to see the positive attitude of young men who have lived through difficult circumstances and are joyfully serving their community and seeing how they can 'be the change' by their actions. Our final task of the day was to sort through discarded cricket gear. We concluded that much of it was desirable 'vintage'. Watch this space for a white's sale.



## Tiverton Pannier Market

A small group of Petergate Year 12s spent Monday's field day helping out at Tiverton Pannier Market. They worked hard (and in the freezing cold!) to paint the outside walls of one of the community buildings.

Jim Bray, Manager of the Pannier Market, was delighted with the boys' work. "We're very happy with the work they got through. The community building behind the market now looks much more vibrant," he said afterwards. "The boys can really be proud of what they achieved at the market."

**Mr Olive** - Director of Community Partnerships



## Blundell's Clay Pigeon Shooting Club

Blundell's Clay Pigeon shooting club had an excellent day on Wednesday 16th March, competing in the Independent School's Challenge at the Oxford Gun Company. Despite the weather, the boys shot brilliantly well, all 5 of them scoring over 40 out of 50 birds in the competition. Teddy and Barnaby both top-scored with 43 out of 50, and the team spirit was fantastic, despite the terrible conditions. John, Dan and Oliver all scored extremely well too. Overall, the boys did brilliantly, scoring 207 out of 250, and placed 2nd in the competition overall, behind only the strongest of Millfield teams on 230.

This really is an excellent return as they were competing against local schools to Oxford and the wider area who all had extremely well-established teams and lots of experience at the shooting ground we were on. The team were absolutely thrilled to win 500 shotgun cartridges, lots of Browning stash and to be presented their prizes by Olympic Gold Medallist Peter Wilson, (and more importantly for some, the presenter of a popular shooting YouTube channel!) Special mention must also be made to Arabella in Year 7 School House, who entered as an individual for the junior competition and shot exactly the same course as the boys. She did fantastically well and was 2nd placed junior girl overall, winning a gun slip and lots of other shooting goodies, a worthy return for some excellent shooting, and it bodes well for the future of the shooting club at Blundell's.

A fantastic day out all round, that even a flat tyre on the way home could not ruin.

**Mr Hayward**





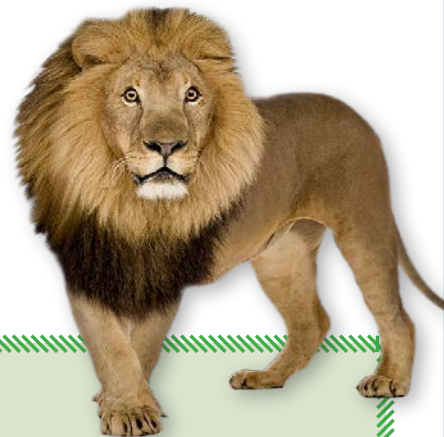


## English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Yesterday 4 Yr 12 students were involved in planning and delivering an EAL workshop to non-native speaker members of our Blundell's community and the broader Tiverton community. A group of 9 adult learners were invited into school where they participated in communicative language activities and the sharing of our different cultural backgrounds. Blundell's students had a chance to learn about some aspects of communicative language teaching and how to set up and facilitate classroom activities for learners who do not have English as a first language. Our students fully engaged with all aspects of the day and were a credit to the school as well as great communicators and classroom operators. I really do hope that this is the beginning of a successful initiative whereby Blundell's can contribute towards the integration of people of many different language and cultural backgrounds into the wider Tiverton and mid-Devon community and whereby our students can gain valuable insights into the power of language to build understanding and cooperation.

## THE LION KING

It was a joy to take a group of international students to see The Lion King at the Bristol Hippodrome this term. For many of them, it was an introduction to the wonders of UK theatre and the show did not disappoint. The set and costumes were a sight to behold, with spectacular masks and puppets bringing the musical to life. A brilliant afternoon trip and an experience many of the students will never forget. - **Jo Hadley** Head of EAL



## Spring Term Garden Open Day

Year 1 started events in glorious Spring sunshine, which continued throughout the day. Tom J, Freddie C and Stan M from Year 9 led the three separate activities for the energetic and very enthusiastic youngest Blundellians.

The letters 'N, Y, U, N, B' were hidden round the garden for them to find and then work out what Easter themed word they spelt. It didn't take them long to spell 'Bunny' before moving on to sow Calendula seeds. The RHS Campaign for School Gardening 'Grow Well' initiative this year which focuses on the mental health and wellbeing properties of gardens is encouraging us to grow Calendula to celebrate the benefits of growing plants. The variety chosen was 'Oopsy Daisy' much to the delight of our youngest gardeners. The final activity was an **Easter Egg colouring competition**.

After break we welcomed Year 7 from ACE Tiverton to our garden for a Nature Wellbeing Workshop ran by Sarah Jellard. (ACE Tiverton is a special school for students aged 11-16 years with autistic spectrum condition and associated social, emotional and mental health needs). The Year 7 loved the activities laid on for them which included exploring the garden bare foot, creating a piece of nature art to express their current feelings and listening quietly to the birdsong in the garden. On being asked for a word to express how they felt in the Blundell's Garden and doing the activities they said: 'Calm, Peaceful, Happy, Challenged, Good, Relaxed, Alive, Fresh'.

At the end of the session, the students from ACE were asked what they enjoyed about the morning, and they said:

"I feel happy. I loved the whole morning."

"I enjoyed walking barefoot. It was new for me. I will do it again."

"I enjoyed looking at the pond life. It makes me curious."

"Thank you for all the fun."

It was a perfect day for the Garden Café to be open which was dominated by School House who brought in their cash during our phone free week! Over 200 lollies were sold along with smoothies, tray bakes and a surprising number of hot chocolates for such a hot day! A huge thank you to everyone who helped run activities and the Garden Café. We were supported again brilliantly by the Blundell's Catering Team and special thanks to Sarah Jellard for running her workshop with ACE Tiverton.

### Summer Term Garden Open Day

Summer Term Garden Open Day will be Thursday 19th May  
The Year 10 Music Concert in the Garden is Friday 20th May  
and then for the National Garden Scheme, the Garden and the Blundell House Garden will be open 1-4pm on the 21st and 22nd May.





# Charity



All four of our school charities provide us with excellent examples of what it means to care for others in practical ways and we are privileged to partner with them and learn from them.



**Hospiscare**  
Caring in the heart of Devon

## Hospiscare

[www.hospicecare.co.uk](http://www.hospicecare.co.uk)

Caring in the Heart of Devon. Each year Hospiscare support 2000 people with life-limiting illness by caring for families in our region. This term we have raised money through a bake sale and a home clothes day and we have raised awareness for this important charity through a pupil-led chapel service.

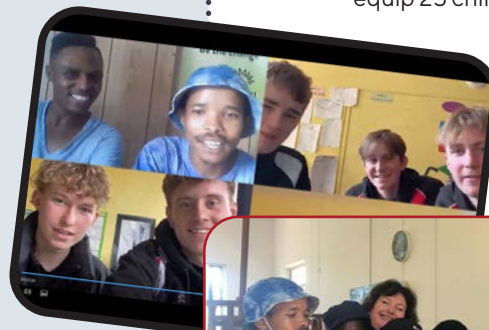


## Little Hero

(Will's Woodland)

[www.littlehero.org.uk](http://www.littlehero.org.uk)

Fighting childhood brain tumours. Little Hero support families facing cancer diagnosis and funding for research into new treatments for childhood cancer. Whenever possible the Blundell's pupils take the opportunity to get their hands dirty by helping to development the Will's Woodland Retreat site not far from Tiverton.



## The Bhambayi Project

[www.bhambayiproject.co.za](http://www.bhambayiproject.co.za)

Restoring Hope. Re-storying Lives.

The Bhambayi Project is dedicated to transforming the lives of orphans and vulnerable children in one of the most disadvantaged communities in South Africa. As part of our Christmas appeal pupils at Blundell's exchanged greetings with children living in Bhambayi and we were able to help equip 25 children with the school uniform

and other needed items for the start of their school year. We have continued to build relationships further through online conversations.



## Churches Housing Action Team (CHAT)

[www.chatmid.org](http://www.chatmid.org)

CHAT offer free and confidential services to people experience housing difficulties in mid-Devon. Mr Simon Friend, Director of trustees for CHAT, delivered a chapel service which enlightened us about how easily one might slip into homelessness and the importance of reaching out to those in need. Blundell's pupils have donated clothes, they have also helped to pack food boxes for families. Blundell's families have made generous contributions to an online auction which will be ending on Easter Friday and all proceeds from this will be well used by CHAT.

## Ukraine

We have all been touched by recent plight of the Ukrainian people and pupils have devised various initiatives to raise financial support for them. This has included the sale of a painting by a year 13 Art Scholar, Carrie Lee; a Cricket Whites Sale; a Blue and Yellow Home Clothes Day, a hockey event, donations of needed items and a bake sale.



All in all, it has been a busy term with incredible generosity being shown by our whole school community.

## RagBag

In addition to all these charitable activities, our Charity Committee is trying to do its bit for the environment through a clothes recycling scheme, RagBag. This scheme gives us money for every kilogram of clothing recycled and this term we have raised **£400** for our charities through a collaborative effort.



## Art Fair

The sun came out for the Inaugural Charity Art Fair and it was a joyous occasion with much to celebrate, especially when contrasted with recent times of social restrictions. All visitors were able to enjoy refreshments and chatter, while also taking in the creations of the seven local exhibiting artists. The artists set the scene, not only with their beautiful work, but also with their generosity: kindly giving their time to this initiative, 30% of all their sales and a raffle prize for the draw. Alongside the professional artists, our Charity Craft Club had some handmade items for sale, including beach bags, macrame pot holders and individually designed Easter mugs. Harry Flower (head gardener) and The Bhambayi Project artists, also provided images used in the sale of greeting cards. It was wonderful to collaborate with so many people to pull this event together. Pupils were invited to take in the exhibition and the Gold Art Award group were particularly interested in speaking to the artists and admiring the artwork.

NAME OF ARTIST	TYPE OF ARTIST
Belinda Reynell	Landscape Artist
Anna Vojtisek	Pattern Designer & Lampshade Maker
Jeremy Speck	Printmaker
Gill Erskine- Hill	Landscape & Portrait artist
Laura Grant	Landscape & Portrait Artist
Alison Whateley	Textile Artist
Antoinette Jackson	Sculptor



## School House Dinner Parties

Year 7 enjoyed a wonderful season of School House Dinner Parties. This brilliant event, now in its third year, is a fantastic opportunity for both pupils and parents. Tutor groups cook a three course meal for their parents, as well as prepare the décor and serve the dishes, and parents have the chance to socialise with each other. Culinary highlights included Pan Seared Pigeon, Slow cooked Pork Belly and Smoked Salmon Roulade! All proceeds went to the school charities and School House are very proud to have raised over **£1,000**. Incredible!!

Mr Rochfort





# Blundell's Community

The recent Russell is one of the cornerstone events at Blundell's that is etched into every Old Blundellian's memory, with a sense of 'thank goodness I survived' shared by many, or words to that effect! It was great to see so many OBs and members of the Blundell's community at the start line and I would like to thank all those that came back to take on the challenge.

It's been heartening to start to meet with many of you again in person after all the restrictions we have faced together, I can certainly say this privilege will never be taken for granted.

I am pleased to share with you a program of events we have planned over the next year, with particular interest from many of you in the various reunions we have scheduled. A full list of events is at the back of the Diary.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to those who have stepped forward to help support the Annual Fund and Bursary Fund. Your generosity makes such a positive impact on the school and provides the means for life changing opportunities for exceptionally talented children, thank you. We are still seeking the support for House donations, and you can see how much is left to raise for each House below.

We are also very excited to soon be launching our first ever Giving Day on 22/23 June! A Giving Day is a chance for our Blundell's Community to come together on one day to support our Bursary Fund. More details will be shared with you soon, so please watch this space.

For those that would like more details on our fundraising plans or to find out more on our various events we will be hosting, please contact us at 01884 232324 or [devoffice@blundells.org](mailto:devoffice@blundells.org).



Ben Boswell (FH 2000-02), Director of Development



*'It has been a real privilege to work with the pupils in CCF and in true Blundellian Style, watch them throw themselves into all the challenges and activities on offer.'*

## Annual Fund Update

Thank you to the many friends of Blundell's who has supported our Annual Fund. Each House is hoping to secure funds to build a small-scale project to benefit the pupils in each House. Work will commence immediately after funds have been secured for each project. If you can help a House fulfil a project, we would be most grateful.

See the [Annual Fund website page](#).

SCHOOL HOUSE	£95 NEEDED	Outdoor Wooden Planter (made by the pupils)
NORTH CLOSE	£335 NEEDED	Refurbishment to the NC Garden including Storage Shed and Netball Hoop
PETERGATE	£395 NEEDED	Enhanced Outdoor Communal Area including new picnic benches
OLD HOUSE	£445 NEEDED	Enhanced Gym Area including new equipment
WESTLAKE	£529 NEEDED	Enhanced Outdoor Area with Pizza Oven
FRANCIS HOUSE	£545 NEEDED	Enhanced Communal Activities Area including a new pool table (2nd hand donations welcome!)
PREP SCHOOL	£615 NEEDED	
GORTON HOUSE	£645 NEEDED	



## Old Blundellian Day Saturday 18th June 2022

The OB Club hopes this occasion will be memorable, with an opportunity for celebration, getting together, as well as reflection on the 3 years since OB Day 2019. We are delighted that the President for the day will be Leigh Menheneott. Leigh arrived at Blundell's in 2001 to join the PE Department, he was Housemaster of OH (2001- 2014) and an inspirational rugby and cricket coach. We are delighted that his wife, Ali (Former staff) will also be joining him. We welcome as our preacher, Nick McKinnel, Bishop of Plymouth and current Governor (2013- present). John Brigden (Former staff 1996-2011) will be reading the lesson in Chapel. The lunch will be held in Big School, preceded by a drinks reception. Tickets for the day have been frozen from 2019 and are priced at £25 per person, if booked before the 15th May and £30 from 16th May, with the deadline of 5th June 2022. The price includes pre-lunch drinks, lunch with wine, and tea at the Beale Centre. Individual tickets or tables of 10 welcome. We look forward to offering this excellent value reunion and we are hoping to welcome a significant OH contingent.

[Click here to book your tickets](#)



## OB Club Live Six Nations Rugby

Two days of live atmospheric rugby, including Super Saturday was screened in the Beale Centre during the Six Nations Rugby Championship. Sixty members of the Blundell's community came together to enjoy two cracking days of rugby, whilst enjoying good food, local drinks from the Beale Centre bar and good company. Janet Wooff and Tom Cowle (W 1991-96) are looking to host other similar events in the future and welcome any ideas from the community.



## OB Winter Lunches

After 18 months of absence, the resumption of the Winter Lunches in October last year provided the opportunity for the Blundell's community to come together once more.

They did so with an eager appetite and Janet Wooff and Jonny Ison (Chair of the lunches) were delighted to be able to welcome them again.

This appetite was not only sated by the warm and friendly social engagement, by the interesting, amusing and insightful talks given, on subjects from 'Anecdotes of Covid' to 'Who'd be a Governor', but also by the delicious food created by the charming and enthusiastic new School Head Chef, Ankur.

To find out more or to view next season's programme [please click here](#)





## New Blundell's Archive Newsletter - The Archivium!

"I have recently taken over the role of Archivist, alongside my teaching role in the History Department, from longstanding member of staff and award-winning local historian Mike Sampson, who has lovingly spent the past 16 years maintaining and expanding the School's collection. The Archives is now producing a newsletter to share with you what goes on in the Archives, and to showcase some of our existing material as well as new acquisitions which may be of interest to the School Community. I hope you enjoy this newsletter, you can [download the latest copies here](#). Or if you need a paper copy sent to you, please contact **01884 232324**. If you have any queries or questions about the Archive please be in touch!"

- Catherine Flavelle, School Archivist

[archive@blundells.org](mailto:archive@blundells.org)



## The Head Joins the Twaddlers for Lunch

The Head was honoured to be invited to the Twaddlers monthly lunch this February. The Twaddlers were formed by accident in September 2012 when Roger Davis (FH 1959-64) organised a wonderful reunion of the 1962 XI at The Savoy. The group was born. Since then, the Twaddlers have grown out of all proportion. They stay in touch with one another on a 'google group', monthly zoom calls, and lunches have been held every first Tuesday in the month since that get-together at The Savoy almost ten years ago now. These lunches are usually hosted in London at Will Palmer's (FH 1994-99) 10 Cases in Covent Garden.

We are very grateful to the Twaddlers who have recently begun donating part of their lunch contribution to the School's Bursary Fund to support exceptionally talented pupils to attend Blundell's when they otherwise would be unable to do so. The initiative was launched by Peter Price (W 1958-63) and many of the Twaddlers have followed and for this we are very grateful.

*Pictured: Bill Seldon (W 1955-60), Pauline Rooks, Peter Price (W 1958-63), David d'Arcy Hughes (W 1958-62), Mike Wade (W 1960-63), Peter Ward (FH 1959-64), John Ludgate (M 1954-59), Bart Wielenga, Mark Seldon (W 1957-61) and Anthony Jacques (SH 1962-66).*

## OB Theatre Production Tackling Stigma of Mental Health

Humour and Tears Theatre Company was founded in 2021 by Alex Thomas (P 2011-18), Benedict Hughes, Jack Watt (P 2011-18) and Will Curtis (P 2011-18).

"Our Theatre productions are telling the fictional and non-fictional stories of those that have to live with mental health afflictions daily. Our first show "A Shortened Story" debuted in Ondaatje Hall on in December 2021 tried to showcase a fraction of the inner psyche of a person living with Alzheimer's. We used a selection of OB performers including Barnaby Ames (FH 2011-18), Felicity Charlesworth (GH 2011-18), Will Curtis (P 2011-18), Nathan Hughes (P 2013-18), Rafe Oliver (P 2012-17), Alex Thomas and Jack Watt (P 2011-18).

A new show, "FOOL" will try to do the same for someone living with generalised anxiety disorder. We want to give back and help, each show we present donates a percentage of profits to a charity that is working on the highlighted affliction. For more information you can see our [website](#)





## OB Sport Weekend March 2022

What a fantastic weekend, not only from the sport and glorious sunshine but also from the important camaraderie and social engagement this event provided. This was despite the absence of fives and girls' hockey this year, and the 3-year hiatus due to the Pandemic. Boys' hockey, football, netball and newly involved shooters keenly competed against the school teams. This keenness was also much in evidence back in the Beale Centre, where all teams and spectators enjoyed a catch up over a drink and food, provided by the OB Club. To see the full report and more photos [please click here](#)

To ensure your involvement next year, please contact Janet.



## OB Golf Society

The OB Golf Society is welcoming members to join the group. Eligibility requires that you attended Blundell's or are a current or past Master. Membership cost is £20 per annum.

The events are charged at cost, the Society subsidizes younger members who are selected to play in the scratch competitions. Membership also includes joining our WhatsApp group to arrange informal golf meet-ups.

## Charity Golf Day 12 May 2022

Our Blundell's Charity Golf Day is back again this year. All welcome on Thursday 12 May at Tiverton Golf Club at 10am. £65pp or £250 to enter a four-ball team – enter as either an individual or team.

To enter please visit the Golf section on the [Old Blundellian website](#)



## Netball Rivalry

A competitive game with some 'gentle sibling rivalry' evident. Having built up quite a large lead in the first half, a number of unforced errors in the third game let the OBs right back into the game. Which meant it was 'game on' in the 4th quarter. The 1sts came back strong and ensured the win. With eight Year13 1st and 2nd VII netballers leaving this year it could be a very competitive game next year!





## Alumni Russell Race

Thank you so the 26 brave souls who joined us at our 142nd Russell Race! Although the sun was finally shining on this day, it sure was muddy! Congratulations to Samuel Wyatt-Haines (FH 2007-14) who won the OB Russell Race (8 km) at 32 minutes and 16 seconds.



## Thames Hare & Hounds Alumni Race

Congratulations to OB runners Justin Reynolds (SH 1986-91), Tom Cumberlege (SH 1990-93), Ben Boswell (FH 2000-02) and Peter Hickey (FH 1995-2000) for braving the wet and cold conditions to run in the annual Hare & Hounds Race in London. Honourable mentions to these OBs & friends who came to cheer on the runners; Giles Stimson (NC 1960-65), Peter Price (1958-63), Anthony Jacques (SH 1962-66), Chris Barker (P 1960-65), Marion Augustin and Peter Ward (FH 1959-64).

The Hare & Hounds is a long-standing race for alumni of schools with strong cross-country running traditions like Blundells. Blundell's would very much like to continue to represent the event. If you enjoy running and are based near London, please let us know. Next race will be the 'Thames Hare & Hounds Alumni Race' on Saturday 17 September!



## Maddy & Josie Dart (GH 2012-17)

Congratulations to Old Blundellians Maddy (GH 2012-17) and Josie Dart (GH 2012-17) for completing the Rome marathon in 4 hours and 20 minutes in aid of Devon Air Ambulance in memory of the late Ian Stoneman. Ian was the father of Archie (P 2010-2017), Lucy (GH 2015-19) & Mathilda.

You can [show your support on their page](#)

See instagram @routetorome



# Announcements

## Emma Diana Cumberlege

Emma Diana Cumberlege daughter of Edward Cumberlege (P 2007-09) and Elyse, born in January 2022 in Hong Kong.

**We are delighted that Edward has agreed to be an Ambassador for our upcoming Giving Day in June!**



## Edward Symes III (OH 1964-65)

Edward (Ned) Symes, III (age 74) passed away at home in America on May 3, 2021 surrounded by his family. He led a life devoted to his family, the communities in which he lived, and the organizations he served. Born in Louisville, Kentucky he was a 1964 graduate of Wilbraham Academy (MA) and an English-Speaking Union Fellow at Blundell's School. Ned graduated with honours from Dartmouth College in 1969.

Following graduate school, he moved to Maryland, his adopted home for the next 50 years. Ned was named Entrepreneur of the Year by the Washington Business Journal and was an active member of the communities of which he was a part of. Including serving on the Board of Trustees at his boarding school, Wilbraham Academy for a dozen years, funding an athletic cup award and an academic scholarship for students of colour.

**Ned's wife and family are currently planning a donation in his honour to support the school's bursary provision and we thank his family in advance for their generous foresight.**

To read Ned's full obituary  
[visit the OB website](#)

## OLD BLUNDELLIAN DEATH NOTIFICATIONS

- (-.-.21) Richard R D Burney (M 1957-61)  
(10.02.21) James Hugh Maxwell (FH 1956-60)  
(17.02.21) Kenneth Micheal Carey Brooksbank ('Mike') (P 1942-44)  
(03.05.21) Edward Symes III (OH 1964-65)  
(08.09.21) Cdr John Henry McLeod-Hatch (M 1947-52)  
(21.10.21) Hugh Morrish (NC 1965-70)  
(02.11.21) Nigel Francis Brooke (NC 1951-54)  
(24.11.21) Patrick Walsh (W 1968-73)  
(-.12.21) Hugh Reed (P 1946-51)  
(24.12.21) David S Pembrey (M 1955-60)  
(25.12.21) John Marsden (Former Staff 1965-85)  
(14.01.22) Oliver Francis Amor (M 1945-51)  
(16.01.22) Major Charles Micheal Crawford Crowe ('Mike') (P 1945-46)  
(16.01.22) James Nugent ('Olly') (SH 1970-75)  
(16.01.22) Nicholas Atkinson (NC 1979-83)  
(18.01.22) Peter Politzer (FH 1950-54)





# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## Rick Ackroyd (FH 1958–63)

I was born at the end of World War II in Weston-Super-Mare. At the age of 13, I went to Blundell's School as a boarder. At school I was heavily into sport representing the school at cricket, rugby and athletics. I also played squash and fives in my spare time. I obtained a university pass at A levels and after a gap year went to St Andrew's University in Scotland to study Civil Engineering. At St Andrew's I represented the University at soccer and learnt to play golf and to ski in my spare time. I graduated with a BSc Hons in Civil Engineering.

My first job as a graduate Engineer was supervising the Brixton extension of the Victoria line of the London Underground. After 4 years working in London, I relocated with the same company to open a new office in Johannesburg.

Johannesburg was full of ex-pats and I moved into a communal house and life was very sociable. During that time, I met my wife Caryll and we married in April 1973. Our two sons were born, Charles in 1977 in Durban and John in 1980 in Evander. John was born with a hole in his heart and underwent open heart surgery at 10 months which was a very trying time for us, but he survived and flourished and represented Transvaal as a junior in both squash and sailing.

I became involved in the Rotary and joined the Sasolburg club in 1982 as the President. I played league squash and played for several years until I was forced to stop because of Glaucoma affecting my eyesight.

In 2011, we subdivided our property, designed, and built our retirement home on the remainder and sold off the original house. I was a Director of a Civil Engineering company from 1998 until I retired in 2005 at 60. Since then, I have been employed as a consultant on a part-time basis.

I have been involved in hiking for a fair portion of my life and ran a hiking club for 20 years. During that time, I led numerous hike weekends away. Caryll also hikes with me, and we have recently hiked overseas in Albania, Greece, Italy, Chile and Iran. I am also a keen sailor and play golf whenever the opportunity arises.

You can read Rick's full story on the 'Where Are They Now' Section of the [OB website](#)

*My 60 year old colours blazer still fits! Sadly, the straw boater had died many years ago!*

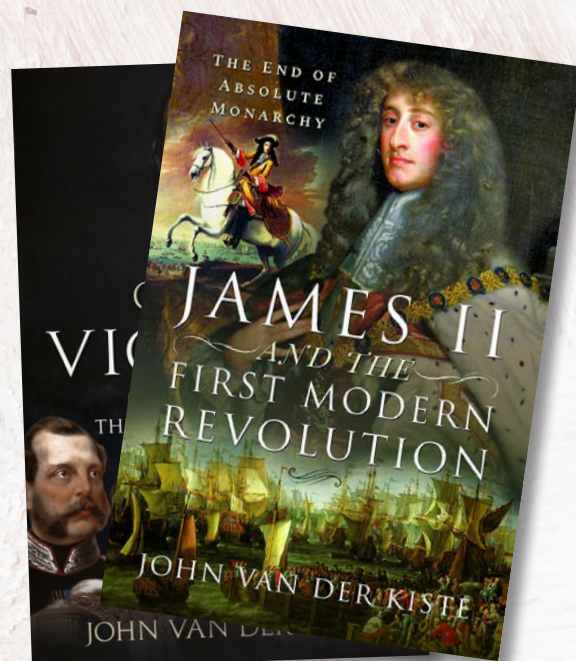
## John Van der Kiste (Westlake 1967–72)

Having been made redundant from City College, Plymouth in 2017, shortly before reaching official retirement age, I am at last, a full-time freelance author, writing historical biographies and books on pop and rock music.

Latest publications - James II and the First Modern Revolution (Pen & Sword), and 1970, The Year In Music: The Year Rock Became Mainstream (Sonicbond). Due for publication in 2022, William IV: The Last Hanoverian Monarch; Decades: Mott the Hoople and Ian Hunter in the 70s; Decades: Free and Bad Company in the 70s.

I also published a series of classic historical reprints under my own imprint, A F, through Amazon. Main hobbies include reading, music (helping to organise sessions at local pub and occasional community events) and painting.

Married to Kim, a music teacher, professional classical musician, leader and manager of 4tissimo String Quartet.





## Georgina Pitts (GH 2011-18)



After Blundell's, Georgina obtained a degree in Nuclear Medicine at Swansea University. Whilst there she played for Swansea Hockey Club and represented the Welsh Universities at the University Home Nations tournament in Scotland.

She was later selected to play for the First team, and they went on to win the North Division One, securing promotion to the Premier League. She has played in two European competitions, winning a bronze medal on both occasions.

Whilst playing for Swansea she was scouted for the Welsh programme and was selected to represent Wales at the Junior World Cup in South Africa in March 2022, taking leave from her position as a Nuclear Medicine Specialist Clinical Technologist at Derriford Hospital.



## Ollie Hall-Tomkin (OH 2002-16)

Congratulations to Ollie Hall-Tomkin (OH 2002-16) for passing out of Britannia Royal Naval School (BRNC) as a RN Officer on 16th December 2021. Pictured with his brother, Will Hall-Tomkin (FH 2012-19) who is currently studying at Cardiff University.



## Harvey Metcalf (P 1960-64)

'I went straight from Blundell's into the Royal Navy where I spent some 34 plus years, ending up as a Lieutenant Commander; but in that time, I was second-in-command of 2 ships and the commanding officer of an inshore minesweeper. My sea time finished as a Navigator of a couple of frigates. Then a Staff Officer in NATO as an exercise planner, then designer and project manager for a multi-million pound Command system which came in on time and under budget!! I received the MBE.

I continued the project management into the commercial IT world in 1998, working for 3 different companies in the UK and Europe until I was made redundant in 2015. I became an independent consultant with my final job in Copenhagen, retiring at last and staying in Denmark.

I live on the island of Aroe, where I am a member of the Search and Rescue (SAR) boat; I sail a 37ft yacht; I make picture frames for customers, paint, make sculptures and deeply into photography. I am a contented man with a separated wife and a son who lives in Italy.'





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## APRIL 2022

**30th APRIL** – 50 Year Alumni Reunion (Class of 1971 & 1972) Big School/Beale at 12pm. Contact: Development Office

## MAY 2022

**7th MAY** – (NEW DATE) 10 Year Alumni Reunion (Class of 2011 & 2012). Contact: Development Office.  
Book: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BMCM>

**12th MAY** – Charity Golf Day at Tiverton Golf Club at 10am. All welcome either as an individual or team. [Book here](#)

**18th MAY** – 1604 London Lunch at Victory Services London, for supporters who pledged a gift in their Will. Contact: Development Office

**18th MAY** – Casual London Drinks nr Brixton from 6pm to 8pm. Contact: Development Office

**19th MAY** – Garden Open Day for Blundell's Supporters and Close Friends with a cream tea in Blundell House Garden from 3pm to 5pm

**21st-22nd MAY** – National Open Garden Scheme, - Blundell's Garden from 1pm to 4pm. Pre-booking essential. [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)

## JUNE 2022

**18th JUNE** – Old Blundellian Day. Contact: OB Club.  
[Book here](#)

**22nd-23rd JUNE** – Giving Day.  
Contact: Development Office

## JULY 2022

**30th JUNE-2nd JULY** – Devon County Show - with a reception to be held on Saturday 2nd July. Contact: Development Office

**1st JULY** – OB Club Current OB Parent and Grandparent Speech Day Lunch. Contact OB Club.

**1st JULY** – Speech Day and Leavers' Ball. Contact: Development Office.

## SEPTEMBER 2022

**17th SEP** – Thames Hare & Hounds Alumni Race. Contact: Development Office.

**18th SEP** – Blundell's Community Rugby Trophy Tournament and Family Day. Contact: OB Club

**24th SEP** – (NEW DATE) 1950s to 1960s Alumni Reunion. Contact: Development Office.

**25th SEP** – (TBC) Reichwald Fives Trophy Tournament. Contact: OB Club.

**25th SEP** – One Day Equestrian Event and Taunton Reception, Pontispool Equine Sports Centre nr Norton Fitzwarren. Contact: Development Office.

# Upcoming Reunions

## 30 APRIL 2022

### 50 Year Alumni Reunion

(Class of 1971 & 1972)

Big School/Beale at 12pm

<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BMMZ>

## 7 MAY 2022 (NEW DATE)

### 10 Year Alumni Reunion

(Class of 2011 & 2012)

Book: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BMCM>

## 18 JUNE 2022

### Old Blundellian Day

with President, Leigh Menheneott.

Speaker John Brigden.

## 24 SEP 2022 (NEW DATE)

### 1950's to 1960's Alumni Reunion



## Giving Day

The Blundell's Development Office is delighted to announce our first ever Giving Day on 22 and 23 June. Our Giving Day is an online appeal where our Community Members can join forces over 36 hours to support our Bursary Fund.

Our Bursary Fund supports exceptional pupils to attend Blundells when they would otherwise be unable to do so.





# Forthcoming Events

Events in purple: Prep School Events

Events in red: Senior School Events

Events in green: Blundell's Community/Association



Academic



Social Event



Sports



Coffee Mornings



Religious Service



Music



Public Speaking



Theatre

## April 2022

**26th**  
TUE



### Blundells Association Coffee Morning

FOB's Cafe / 8.30am / Parents welcome. Contact: Blundell's Association

**29th**  
FRI



### Sensory storytime for Under 5's with Mrs Clifford

Tiverton Library / 10.00-11.30am / Parents and under 5's

## May 2022

**3rd**  
TUE



### Author Talk 'Power of the Hedgerows' with Penny Adie

Prep School / 7pm / All welcome

**6th**  
FRI



### Blundells Association Film Night 'Green Book'

Ondaatje / 7pm / Parents welcome

**7th**  
SAT



### Tea for Year 11 Gorton House girls and their families

Gorton House / 11.30-13.00 / Y11 GH families only

**11th**  
WED



### Blundell's Association Tour of School Grounds with the Head Gardener - Harry Flower

Fob's Cafe / 8.30-9.30am / Parents welcome

**18th**  
WED



### 'You're not in this Alone' - a PSHE discussion evening for parents

Beale Centre / 7pm / Parents only

**21st**  
SAT



### Years 9 and 10 Parents' Academic Forum

Ondaatje Hall / 12pm / Y9 & 10 Parents only

**27th**  
SAT



### Sensory Storytime for Under 5's with Mrs Clifford

Tiverton Library / 10.00-11.30am / Parents and under 5's

## June 2022

**6th**  
MON



### Blundell's Association Parents' Coffee Morning

FOB's Cafe / 8.30am / Parents welcome / Contact: Blundell's Association

**11th**  
SAT



### Year 12 Gorton House Families invited for Tea and Cake

Gorton House / 11.00am / Y12 GH families welcome

**9-11th**  
THU-SAT



### Royal Cornwall Show

Wadebridge


**13th**  
MON






### Nurse Sports Day and Parents' Picnic afternoon

Prep school / 2 - 3.30pm / Nursery parents welcome



<b>17th</b> FRI		<b>Blundell's Association Tour of the School Grounds with the Head Gardener</b> 4pm / All welcome.
<b>18th</b> SAT		<b>Old Blundellian Day with President Leigh Menheneott, Preacher Nick Mckinnel and Speaker John Brigden. <a href="#">Click here to book</a></b>
<b>20th</b> MON		<b>Blundell's Association Tennis Club Night for Parents</b> Senior School Tennis Courts / 6:30 - 8:30pm / All welcome.
<b>22nd</b> WED		<b>Blundell's Association Cricket match vs. Senior School</b> Big Field / 6:30pm / All welcome.
<b>24th</b> FRI		<b>Sensory Storytime for Under 5's with Mrs Clifford</b> Tiverton Library / 10.00 - 11.30am / Parents and under 5's
<b>24th</b> FRI		<b>Prep Speech Day</b> Prep School / 2pm / Parents welcome
<b>24th</b> FRI		<b>Year 12 Parents' Meeting</b> Big School / 5pm / Y12 Parents welcome
<b>25th</b> SAT		<b>Art Festival</b> Big Field / 12-6pm / All welcome
<b>25th</b> SAT		<b>Friends of Blundell's Prep Summer Ball Drinks</b> Prep Headmasters House / 6.15-7.15pm / New parents welcome
<b>30th</b> THU		<b>Drinks for Year 8 Parents</b> School House (private side) / 5.30pm / Y8 Parents welcome
<b>30-2nd</b> THU-SAT		<b>Devon County Show.</b> Afternoon Tea Reception on 2 July from 2-4pm. Westpoint Arena / Contact development Office for more details: <a href="mailto:devoffice@blundells.org">devoffice@blundells.org</a>

## July 2022

<b>1st</b> FRI		<b>Year 12 Parents &amp; Pupils: 'Introduction to Westlake'</b> Big School / 12.15pm / Y12 Parents welcome
<b>1st</b> FRI		<b>Speech Day, Prize Giving and Leavers Ball (Ticket holders only)</b> Senior School / 2.30pm / Families welcome
<b>23rd</b> THU		<b>Mid Devon Show</b> Knights Hayes



### The School Shop

is now taking appointments for uniform fittings ahead of the start of term in September. The summer is a particularly busy period for us, so we ask that appointments are made ASAP to avoid disappointment.

**To book, please email [shop@blundells.org](mailto:shop@blundells.org) or call us on 01884 232316.**





# Blundell's

---

FOUNDED 1604

Blundell's Road  
Tiverton  
EX16 4DN  
United Kingdom

