

SPRING 2019

review



Inside:
Oxbridging the gap
Authorising success
Enlightening the arts

Cutting Edge

excellence within and beyond the curriculum

"...this term alone I have witnessed outstanding practice in all classrooms from our Nursery through to Year 6"



It never ceases to amaze me just how hard working our children are here at Blundell's Prep. They strive for success and more often than not, the results are truly impressive. Over the course of the Spring Term we have seen countless examples of children striving to succeed within teams and as individuals in every area of school life - be it within Maths or Music, Science or Sport, they are always aiming for excellence. I am in the privileged position to

see this in action across all subjects as I undertake termly lesson observations and this term alone I have witnessed outstanding practice in all classrooms from our Nursery through to Year 6. The pursuit of excellence is embedded within our culture, indeed it features as one of our core aims within 'Roots and Wings', and we look to celebrate it as often as we can, as the pages that follow will demonstrate. You will read of academic success in the BEBRAS computational Thinking Challenge, the Primary Maths Challenge and the school wide phenomenon that is TT Rockstars. You will read of musical success courtesy of our String Quintet who performed in the final of the Procorda competition, and you will learn of the achievements of our musical scholars in Year 6. Our Speech and Drama students achieved remarkable results in their recent exams with all 16 students attaining Distinctions, the highest level available. Sporting success is a feature of every term and this past one has been no different, with our Under 11 Girls' Hockey team finishing joint 2nd in the regional championships, but we have also seen individual success in Judo and Fencing. To my mind, excellence must also encompass character and this is perhaps best seen in the way that the children look out for each other, the way that they work together in pursuit of a common goal, and the kindness that they show towards one another on a daily basis. This generosity of spirit reaches well beyond the school gates, as seen in the way that our Year 2 children have continued to share the message of social responsibility, and this term they had a captive audience as our Governing Body joined them for a lesson on sustainability. Of course, the children only strive for excellence as a result of the culture that is created by the wonderful people who work here at Blundell's Prep, be they teachers or support staff, and I am grateful for their continued efforts. As ever, my thanks go to Mr Moore for his excellent editing of our Spring Review. I do hope that you enjoy it.

Andy Southgate Head Master



When many of our pupils took part in the Primary Mathematics Challenge, some very impressive scores were achieved. Edward, William and Jesse all did particularly well, qualifying for the 'Bonus Round' this term. Jesse from Year 5 did very well to get this far, and William impressed with a Silver medal. Edward, a phenomenal mathematician, managed to gain a Gold Medal - one of only 103 children to do so, out of 67,000 entrants! In the process he only dropped one mark - quite incredible! In the Summer Term we will be taking part in the UKMT Junior Mathematics Challenge, as well as the Quiz Club Maths event. Watch this space to find out how we get on! **DJM**



Senior Moments



"The quality of the pupils' academic and other achievements is excellent... The quality of the pupils' personal development is excellent."

2019 ISI Inspection Report, Key Findings

Blundell's Senior School received a glowing report from the Independent Schools Inspectorate following a full Educational Quality Inspection this term. The overwhelming majority of Prep School pupils move seamlessly over to the Senior School at the end of Year 6, to continue to enjoy the Blundell's experience right up to Year 13. Pictured: The Class of 2019 – Blundell's students since Nursery, nearing the end of their educational journey... from the Roots planted in Pre-Prep, nurtured and developed through Prep, Senior School and Sixth Form, now blossoming world-ready and raring to stretch their Wings and fly! **LPM**





IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE:

Passing the Litmus Test: Year 6 girls intent on developing good chemistry in a Senior School Lab.

AIMING TO ATTAIN, BELIEVING IN ACHIEVING



Academic Ambition

On Friday 11th January an anxious but ambitious group of Year 6 students took their seats to face the challenge of Scholarship Exams in Maths and English. They were not sure what was most nerve-racking, taking the tests or awaiting the results! It certainly seemed like a long two weeks until the results came through! Everybody who had put themselves forward for this challenge performed exceptionally well, and many Distinctions and Honours were awarded in both English and Maths. We are delighted that this year Senior School Scholarships were awarded to eleven students from the Prep School. Congratulations to: Scarlett Brock, Amelia Churcher, Lana Johnson, Edward List, Stanley Macaulay, William Maitland-Walker, Hamish Neil, Sophia Rushton, Francesco Taxis, Reuben Wielenga and Tom Yandle.

Amelia Churcher, Year 6



WON IN A MILLION

The Accelerated Reader scheme continues to be fiercely popular across the school, encouraging readers of all levels to choose books, read and evaluate their reading at a pace hitherto unheard of! Congratulations to the word millionaires (pictured) – all of whom in two terms or less have read their way through more than one million words each! And I am sure that that will not be the end of the story... LPM



Chemical Romance

Sharing Senior School Lab facilities, working with GCSE and A-Level students and hosting staff from the Senior School Science Department to run assemblies and workshops at the Prep School have all helped to engender a real love for science and a burning passion to pursue this elemental subject far beyond the limits of the primary curriculum. LPM



IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE:

AIMING TO ATTAIN,
BELIEVING IN ACHIEVING



If you like statistics, Time Tables Rock Stars is right up your street! Since its launch across



the school in January, children at Blundell's have improved their times tables speeds by an average of 54%, currently boasting an average speed of 3.35 seconds per question and can now answer questions with an accuracy of 89%! More impressive, however, is the 'buzz' around the school about Maths and the pride that the children are taking in setting targets, reaching new levels and beating their previous best efforts. At the time of writing this report, we have had 41 'Rock Stars', 49 'Rock Legends' and 4 'Rock Heroes'! We have had numerous 'Battles' throughout the course of the term and even teachers are involved, regularly being challenged (and beaten!) by the children. Every Friday in Assembly we welcome children to the front to collect their 'Star', 'Legend' and 'Hero' certificates, and it is lovely to see the mix of boys and girls, young and old, who are achieving at such a high level each week! **DJM**



Computers Like Us



This year all pupils at the Prep School once again enjoyed taking part in the annual UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. Some exceptional scores were achieved, with Madeleine and Isabella coming out on top in Year 3, Toby in Year 4, Archie in Year 5 and Edward in Year 6. As a result of Edward's fantastic score, in February he was invited to the University of Oxford where he took part in the Bebras Finals. He performed incredibly well and had a superb day out, including a tour of the Computer Science Department and lectures on Artificial Intelligence!

Following on from the Bebras Challenge, four of our Year 6 students – Ryan, Stanley, William and Edward – did so well that they were invited to take part in the TCS Oxford Computing Challenge – a very tough event indeed, open to only the top 10% nationally! All of the boys did well, and out of the initial 60,000 entrants, most of them from Year 7, Edward came joint 9th in the country! A feat to be proud of indeed, and the logical output of a hard drive to succeed! Well done boys! **DJM**



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE
NATIONAL FINAL
PREP SCHOOLS 2018-2019



UNCOMMON KNOWLEDGE

The Blundell's General Knowledge Quiz Club Team have truly excelled themselves this year. Having successfully progressed through the Regional Heats at St. Christopher's School in Totness early in the term, they subsequently travelled to Bath to compete in the National Semi-Finals against some tough competition at The Paragon School. The team performed fantastically well to win this Semi-Final, earning Blundell's a place in the Quiz Club Prep School General Knowledge National Final for the first time ever! The Final will take place at the National Gallery in London in June, and we wish the team all the best of luck! **LPM**

High Scores

In February we were invited to take part in the National Pro Corda Chamber Music competition. Pro Corda provide inspirational ensemble training in Chamber music and our small Chamber group really enjoyed the experience of performing for them before working with the adjudicator on how to develop and improve their piece. Following the competition our Chamber group was invited to take part in the National Semi-Finals, which were held in Salisbury. Huge congratulations to the Chamber group who performed very impressively, competing against some very accomplished musicians. **BLC**





Rhyme and Reason

Thank you to Mrs. Milne from the Senior School for bringing her Year 8 Speech and Drama students to judge the Pre-Prep Poetry Recital competition this term. It was a tough competition to judge, and wonderful to see the excellent performance poetry put on by Year 8 for the younger pupils – which showed the amazing progress that can be made when following an interest up through the school. **TN**



STRICTLY SPEAKING

Congratulations to the sixteen students who took Speech & Drama exams this term... following expert coaching from our Speech & Drama specialist teachers, Caroline Rochfort and Mai-Lin Hagiwara, all sixteen passed with Distinction! They had been pleased to share their skills with an appreciative audience in a wonderful recital evening earlier in the term. **LPM**



State of the Art

WE WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE JOINED BY A RANGE OF VISITING ARTISTS IN CREATIVE ARTS WEEK, EACH SHARING THEIR EXPERTISE IN THEIR CHOSEN FIELDS WITH EXCITED CHILDREN KEEN TO LEARN FROM THE EXPERTS. WHETHER WORKING IN PAINT, PRINT OR MULTIMEDIA MATERIAL, ALL ENJOYED A MASTERCLASS IN TURNING CREATIVE EXPERIMENTATION INTO AN ART FORM!

LPM



"The Under 11 A Team girls played some high level netball this term, winning all of their school matches and also all of their games in the Exeter Tournament to secure the trophy. The girls also performed brilliantly in the IAPS Regionals, bringing home medals in the plate competition..." **LB**



STRONG LANGUAGE

Thank you to Senior School colleagues from the MFL Department for running after-school Enrichment workshops for interested students from the Prep School. Our children are very lucky to have such a firm grounding in French delivered by Mrs. FitzHerbert, but it has been lovely to be able to offer a taste of broader European languages on offer at the Senior School too. This term we have enjoyed sessions on German, and this will be followed up next term with Spanish. The outward-looking attitude and remarkable aptitude of children so young in embracing new and challenging experiences has been delightful to see. **LPM**

Good Sports:

Net Profits and Goals Achieved

"The Under 11 A Team boys racked up many hockey victories... A great all round squad performance enabled many to play at the highest hockey level and potential qualification to the national finals was missed out on by goal difference alone..." **SGS**



news



RAINY DAY FRIENDS

We are so grateful to the Friends of Blundell's Prep for providing the Pre-Prep with fantastic new wet weather outfits. This has really boosted our Outdoor Learning capability, and the children have loved every opportunity (of which there have been many!) to get out in the rain and splash around in muddy puddles. LPM

Above: Nursery giving it some welly on their Spring Walk this term...



DON'T STOP THE DANCE

On Friday 8th March the Friends of Blundell's Prep hosted the annual Prep School Disco. When we arrived the first activity was to stock up on energy for the dance floor – hotdogs, drinks and an entire stand of sugary sweets did the job, and it wasn't long until everyone was drawn to the disco lights to show what they could do... Many thanks to the Friends for organising this amazing evening!

Reuben Wielenga, Year 6



IN THE LONG RUN

What would you pack in your rucksack to help you survive for 7 days in a desert? We were delighted to welcome Mr. Baily, Head of Sixth Form at the Senior School, to lead our Enrichment Workshop on survival skills. He talked about some of his experiences from running a Marathon in the Sahara Desert, and the children were fascinated to hear about what happens when Growth Mindset values are put to the test in extreme circumstances. A positive mental attitude was required just to eat the dehydrated food rations provided!

Are grit, resilience and a determination not to give up when things seem tough all key items of equipment that we should aim to pack in our own mental rucksacks? LPM

Monkey Business

This term we have continued to explore different ways to encourage the children to take responsibility for their learning. The work of Professor Carol Dweck has played a big part in that process, as has the excellent work of Matthew Syed in his book 'You are Awesome'. When the conditions are just right, our children can and do achieve truly amazing things, in and outside of school, but conditions are not always just right and it can take confidence, determination and resilience to keep on going when things gets tough. To help the children in this, we have referred to 'The Chimp Paradox' by Professor Steve Peters, which uses the image of the chimp to represent the emotional centre of the brain, the place where anxiety, stress and lack of motivation may grow. The importance of learning to manage our chimps cannot be overstated, so we have been exploring different strategies for dealing with our inner chimps before they can lead us astray. We have been encouraging the children to follow **Ten Top Tips for Taming the Chimp**:

1. Smiling
2. Saying sorry
3. Being kind to someone
4. Talking about your feelings
5. Asking for help
6. Showing good manners
7. Trying new things
8. Accepting when "no" really means "no"
9. Learning to share
10. Doing what you have to do

When Mr. Martin kindly agreed to bring the chimp to life in assembly one Monday morning, he certainly managed to help everyone to achieve Top Tip Number 1! ADS

Melt Down

As part of a topic on Eco Warriors, Reception has been investigating what it is like to live in the Arctic and how we can stop the icecaps from melting. They were delighted when Mrs. Cockayne came to talk to them about her challenging walk to the North Pole. She showed the children lots of the equipment that was needed for the expedition. They loved seeing all the clothes she had worn and enjoyed trying them on. Her very warm sleeping bag was very popular. Her visit certainly helped the children to understand how very cold it is in the Arctic and how little tasks are so much more complicated when you are trying to keep warm! SMA





Fish of the Day: Salmon en Croute with Hollandaise Sauce was on the menu at the Parent Cooking Workshop this term. And very yummy it was too! JL



NOT AVERSE TO A POEM OR TWO

HORSE PLAY

Congratulations to Izzy in Year 5 who jumped brilliantly on her pony Shadow at the National Schools Equestrian Association competition in Pontispool. Riding with Lucy and Hattie from the Senior School, the Blundell's team finished 3rd overall. Well done girls! TMC



The children were thoroughly thrilled to come to school on Poetry Day costumed as characters from their favourite poems or nursery rhymes. They had all worked hard to memorise many marvellous verses for a really quite remarkable recital, and some particularly powerful poetry posters were also proudly presented for display. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the whimsy of words! LPM

Be Our Guest

Welcoming parents, grandparents, friends and local community into school is always a great pleasure, and this term saw many visitors experience a taste of Blundell's hospitality! We were sad that snow forced us to postpone our much loved Grandparents' Day, but look forward to rescheduling this for next term when we hope the weather will be kinder to us! Nevertheless, we were able to offer our facilities to support some very important visitors this term, including volunteers from UNITE: Kids Who Care who ran a cooking workshop for Young Carers in our FT room, and DSActive who came to run a Multi-Sports Festival for children with Down's syndrome in our gym. This was in addition to the many wonderful occasions when parents and helpers were able to come in and spend time at school...whether cooking up a treat at the Parent Cooking Workshop, sharing lunch with their children, lending artistic support in Creative Arts Week, watching fixtures, assemblies, recitals and concerts, getting hands-on in Messy Play at Toddler Group or taking part in Craft & Cake activities at the Nursery Café! This term we were also pleased to be able to offer a Parent Seminar with Rachel Waddilove from Sleep Solutions, who presented a thought-provoking session on sleep routines for children. Next term we will be welcoming Susie Costello, paediatric dietitian at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, to speak about healthy eating and body image. Food for thought indeed! LPM



Writing Wrongs: HOW TO VANQUISH VAMPIRES AND OTHER STORIES...

This year's author visit was from Curtis Jobling, well known for designing Bob the Builder, and now for creating the children's Max Helsing horror series. Curtis had previously visited Blundell's as Guest Speaker at Prize Day last year, and everyone was very excited to see him return. Working with smaller groups, he talked about his experiences as an animator, his journey to becoming an author, and his approach to the writing process. His talk was a captivating one, and culminated with a reading from his book Max Helsing, Monster Hunter. Many children bought signed copies of his books and all left with a renewed interest in reading, writing and drawing out the fun of books. Arby Parker, Year 6





NATURE NURTURED

The theme of Creative Arts Week was The Natural World, and from animation to wax-resist, via clay work, collage, computer graphics, digital imagery, filming, finger-knitting, model making, monster designs, multimedia, painting, photography, pom-pom construction, printing, sketching, still life, textiles and tie-dye, it felt as though every artistic avenue in the world was being explored! Add in musical moments and a dash of drama and the week was full to bursting with creative opportunity and imaginative expression! Thank you to Mrs. Aldridge

for putting it all together, and to the teams of visiting artists and parent volunteers who stepped in to make the week such a memorable experience!

Sophia Rushton,
Year 6



Creative Arts Week



Music Hall



Our House Music Competition, which took place during Creative Arts Week, took Songs from the Musicals as its theme and featured some unique interpretations of songs from Mamma Mia, Matilda and School of Rock, performed most entertainingly by the Houses. Many small groups also performed, including guitar groups, piano trios, small singing groups, string groups and wind groups. The Pre-Prep always look forward to performing to the older children and they performed their songs with tremendous confidence and enthusiasm. Mr Hall, one of the Prep School Governors, had the very difficult task of judging the competition. He was hugely impressed with all of the music but in the end Drake were announced the overall winners. Well done to everyone for getting involved and giving it their best shot! **BLC**



Park Life

Creative Arts Week always incorporates lots of drama and Year 2 took to the stage with great enthusiasm for their 'Play in a Day' based on the stories of Percy the Park Keeper. In preparation for the big day, Year 2 had worked very hard with their teachers to understand the story and learn all about the characters Percy meets as a Park Keeper throughout the year. This background knowledge gave the children the confidence to throw themselves into the role on the day, which passed by in a blur of excitement. Aply supported by Kate from Bigfoot Arts Education South West, all in Year 2 came together to produce an excellent performance of Percy the Park Keeper's Four Seasons, sharing the roles and responsibilities brilliantly on stage. Well done Year 2 for working together as a team to bring this story to life so successfully! **TMC**



Four Seasons In One Week

The Pre-Prep explored the wonders of the four seasons in Creative Arts Week. Nursery created magnificent canvasses on each of the seasons using accompanying colours and 3D Season Trees. Reception were extremely busy making snow men out of recycled bottles, threading autumn leaves, sunflower mobiles and 3D spring flowers. Year 1 participated in a big project using tracing paper to transfer their own tree design on to a canvas and then paint different partitions in the colours of the seasons. Year 2 also used canvasses to paint a picture of their favourite season or depict the four seasons. The Pre-Prep worked beautifully and creatively to produce some truly amazing pieces of Art! **AXS**





Young Voices

The planning for the Young Voices Concert starts a good ten months before the actual concert. I often have parents tell me that their child cannot wait until they are in Year 5 so that they can go to Young Voices. Indeed, the excitement seems to grow every year and with good cause. It really is a fantastic experience for the children and one that they will remember for a long time. I even had a parent of a child in Year 6 ask me if they could come back next year to come with us again!

Our trip to the Genting Arena took place on Friday 25th January. The children joined 6500 other children to sing and dance together. They performed a variety of music including a Pop Medley, a Swing Medley and a fantastic finale of songs from *The Greatest Showman*. The children were joined by Beau McDermott (who reached the final of *Britain's Got Talent*) and Tony Hadley. I think that the teachers and parents were a little more excited about this and, in fact, we got some very strange looks from the children as we were singing our hearts out to 'Gold'! Thank you to everyone involved with Young Voices. We are looking forward to learning the songs and dances for next year's concert! **BLC**



Musical Notes



BLUNDELL'S AT THE GAMES

Our Spring Concert had a sporting theme this year. Our Choir and Orchestra joined the Senior School to take part in a concert which brought together musicians from Year 4 to 13. Our Choir sang two sporting themed songs, including the rugby anthem *World in Union*. Our Orchestra played alongside the Senior School Orchestra playing *Chariots of Fire* and the theme tune to *Ki Sunday*. We were all treated to some wonderful orchestral playing including Holst's *Jupiter*, Ravel's *Bolero* and the powerful *Nessun Dorma*. There were many highlights throughout the evening but I think that for many of our children the sight of the Rugby First Fifteen singing *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* with the School House Choir was not only entertaining but also inspiring! It was a truly wonderful evening of music which drew to a close with everybody joining together to perform *We Will Rock You*. **BLC**





Tea and Tunes

The inaugural Pre-Prep Tea and Tunes was a great success. Eighteen children had been busy practising, and eagerly awaited the day. The young musicians played a variety of pieces on a range of instruments from piano and recorder to cello and trombone. The singers confidently sang to the delight of the audience. Many were performing for the first time, congratulations to them all! We now look forward to our second Tea and Tunes next term! **SMA**

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Music plays a huge part in so many of our children's lives at school. We have some very talented musicians and this term some of our Year 6 musicians auditioned for Music Scholarships at the Senior School. They spent the afternoon at the Senior School performing and taking part in singing and instrumental workshops. I am delighted that four children were awarded scholarships. Well done to Lana, William, Reuben and Scarlett. **BLC**

Tea Time Concerts

Our Tea Time Concerts have continued throughout the term. The latest Junior Tea Time Concert saw the largest number of children to date taking part which was just wonderful. These concerts continue to provide the children with the opportunity to perform to an audience which helps tremendously with their performance skills and confidence. **BLC**



RE-CHOIRED: ALL FROM YEARS 4 TO 6 ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN AND SING OUT WITH THE SCHOOL CHOIR!



Out and about



REAP WHAT YOU SOW

Year 2 had a wonderful afternoon getting muddy down in the Blundell's School Community Garden with Mr Olive and some of his Year 8 pupils. The Year 8 children were fantastic ambassadors for the Senior School, kindly and patiently teaching the younger children how to sow sweet pea seeds. Year 2 had a super time and can't wait to come back to do more work in the garden and watch it develop as spring blossoms into summer!



OFF TO THE RACES

'Racing To School' is a charity which enriches learning by using the context of racing, and this term it invited Year 6 to have a tour around Exeter Race Course. We used lots of Maths to find out more about racing and race horses... we measured the perimeter of a horse enclosure, we visited the weighing room where the Clerk of the Scales would weigh the jockeys before each race (a lighter jockey can afford to wear the heavier, more comfortable kit), we walked the course to look at the jumps (which need to be replaced regularly at an average cost of about £5000), we found out about the handicap system and we did some statistics work looking at previous race results before predicting the winners of the afternoon races. We then got to watch a couple of races to see if we were right! At the end of the day we were fortunate enough to be able to present the prize to one of the winners! **Sophia Rushton** and **Hamish Neil**, Year 6





OUT OF THE WOODS

Year 6 enjoyed some glorious weather when they spent the day out at Great Wood with the Forestry Commission Woods and Forests. As part of the Service element of their Blundell's Adventure Leadership and Service Award (BALSA), they were clearing invasive species from an area of woodland, opening up the site to allow the larger trees to flourish. It was brilliant to see the fruits of their labours at the end of the day and watch the sunshine streaming in. A big thank you to James the Community Ranger for Exmoor & the Quantocks for giving the children such a rewarding experience!



SPRING CHICKENS

Nursery had a fantastic time hunting for Easter eggs at Knightshayes Court. The children found eggs hidden in all sorts of places and the beautiful National Trust setting could not be beaten!



FINDING MY RELIGION

Year 2 had a wonderful outing when they visited Exeter Cathedral and Exeter Mosque & Cultural Centre as part of their Religious Education curriculum. They were very impressed with the architecture of the cathedral, and enjoyed visiting the many chapels it contains and learning how to make brass rubbings of the monuments and plaques they found. In the Mosque, they listened to a prayer, learnt about the five different prayer times and enjoyed looking at the different rooms and learning more about the traditions followed by Muslim worshippers. It was a most enlightening day! **SU**



COAST OF A CHANCE

This term Reception have been learning about the animals that live in the Arctic and Antarctic. We have been asking big questions such as 'Why are the icecaps melting?' and 'How can we stop them?' To help us in this topic we visited the penguins at Torquay's Living Coasts. We loved meeting the Macaroni and African penguins and were fascinated watching them swim in the water and waddling around us as they were fed. We also saw the seals being trained and hid food for the otters to find. Indoors the octopus, sea horses, starfish and sting rays proved particularly popular. It was a great day out, not only in meeting the animals, but also in finding out more about how we can look after our environment, and especially our seas and oceans. **SMA**

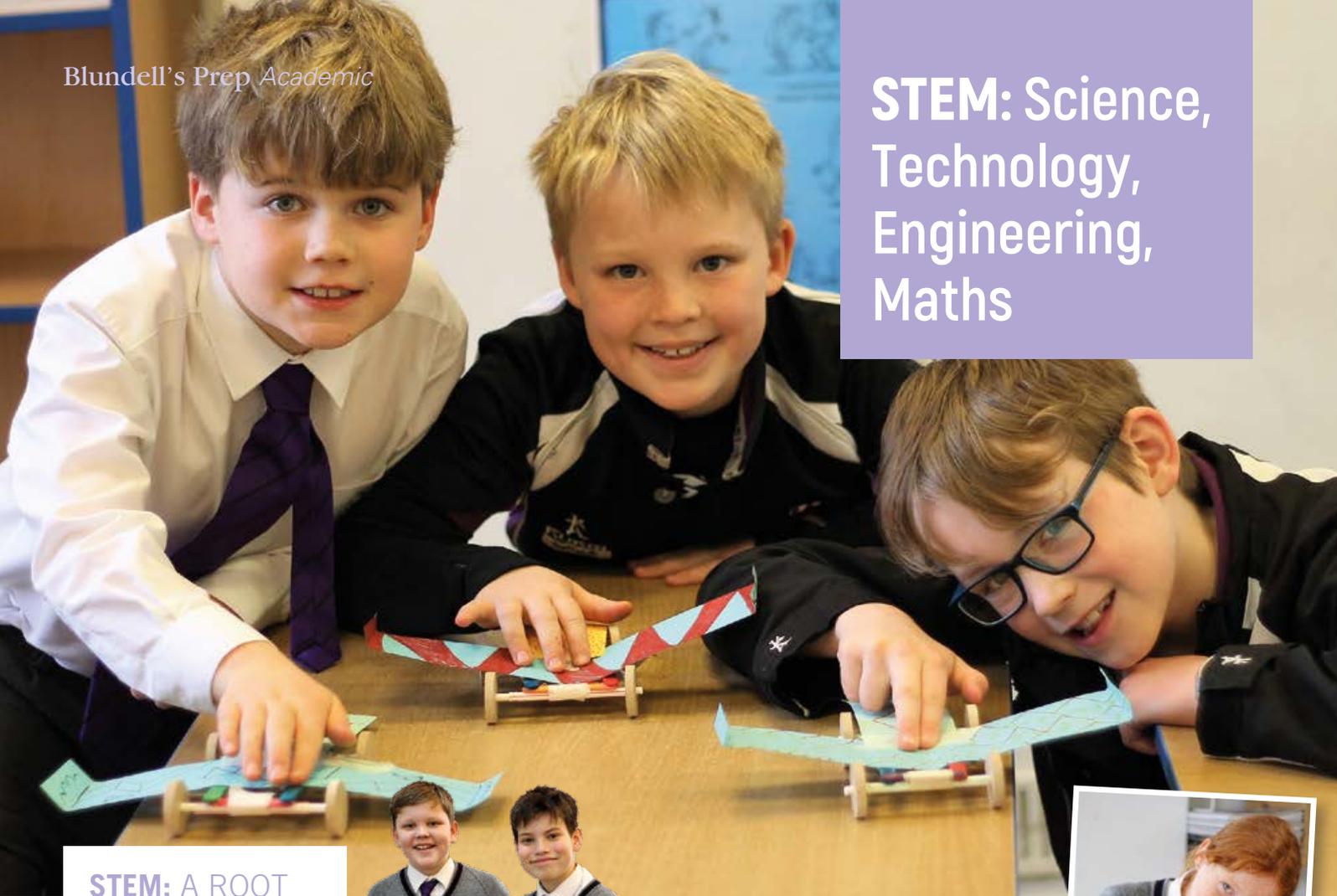


Top Flight

Year 3 enjoyed taking their learning outside with a focus on their Science topic of birds. After wading through the woods on a treasure trail to find clues and identify a selection of garden birds, the children made a tasty snack of eggy bread, before having a hoot crafting some beautiful clay bird sculptures on trees.



STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths



STEM: A ROOT AND BRANCHES APPROACH

In a recent article in the TES, Professor Becky Parker of the Institute for Research in Schools spoke of the importance of scientific participation and research in schools commenting that 'it sparks a love of science and discovery – something that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.' I think that we all recognise that scientific understanding is going to be ever more important in our world and as Professor Parker suggests, 'Science needs young people to embrace creativity and think outside the box to tackle the challenges that the planet faces.' Our Science, Design Technology and Maths lessons provide the children with constant opportunities to explore creative thinking throughout the year, but this was particularly evident this term when Prep, Pre-Prep and Senior School worked together in STEM Week...

ADS



From Stem to Stern

Collaborative learning opportunities were a highlight of STEM Week and included Year 5 working with Years 1 and 2 on tangrams and puzzles, Year 4 leading a number scavenger hunt with Nursery and Reception and Year 9 pupils working with Year 3 on times tables. Mr Mead, Head of Chemistry at the Senior School, made an impact with an assembly full of explosive experiments that captivated the children, while Dr Ratcliffe, Head of Biology at the Senior School, lead Year 6 in an eye-opening dissection workshop with the help of his colleague Mr Barnes and A-Level students Milly and Kira. Cross-curricular creativity was cultivated in using the work of artist M. C. Esher to inspire experimenting with tessellation art. Other activities included town planning homes for gnomes, creating cars from a range of materials to meet different design briefs, pond-dipping for minibeasts, fashioning heat-sensitive slime, building and testing gliders and creating electrical treasure maps! A focus in the Pre-Prep was looking at environmental contamination, and the impact this has on animal habitation on land, and in the sea. A litter pick provided opportunity to classify waste products, and all were agreed on the urgent need to stem the tide on pollution. LPM





Humanities: History, Geography, Religion, Philosophy

The Human Touch

In evaluating the key skills we would like to encourage in our children at Blundell's, the academic ability to research, analyse and reflect, and the emotional aptitude to empathise, debate and respond can be summed up in the aim of promoting critical thinking in collaboration with others. Pursuing this aim is a common theme across the Humanities, and whether looking at the when, the where or the why in History, Geography or RPS, we will always seek to shine a light on the wider context and application of our learning, asking as human beings living in this place, at this time, what values and beliefs can we take forward to shape the future development of our world? **LPM**

LONDON BURNING

Year 1 children spent a thoroughly interesting and worthwhile morning hearing all about The Great Fire of London. Well-known storyteller, Mr. Steve Manning, dressed up as Thomas Farriner, the baker who started the fire, told us how the fire started and how it swept so quickly through the city of London. The children were captivated by the story of his cat, Smudge, who escaped from the fire and luckily turned up a few days later in the camp outside the city. **TN**

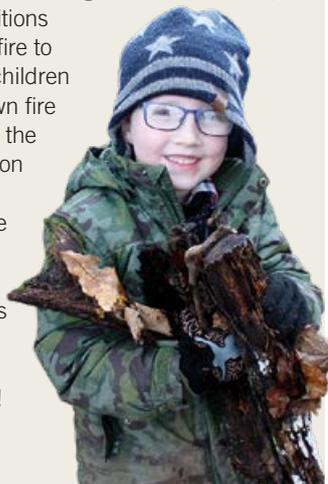


HENRY VIII: REFORMED CHARACTER

Year 5 travelled back in time to immerse themselves in Tudor living when King Henry VIII himself came to visit! The children learned a whole lot of history in a learning forum of Tudor costume, music and jousting!

FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS

Following the Great Fire of London workshop, Year 1 braved the rain and took to the woods to investigate fire: its causes, and the conditions needed for a fire to spread. The children made their own fire and looked at the effects of fire on wood, before enjoying some hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows while singing songs around the camp fire!



WRAP AROUND CARE: WE WANT OUR MUMMY

Year 3 delved into the distant past for their History topic on Ancient Egypt. They began by mummifying Pharaoh Daniel under the expert eye of Anubis, otherwise known as Gabriel. The children then moved on to build shadufs, paint their own Anubis masks, use their maths skills to build the perfect pyramid and write stories in hieroglyphs.

"I really enjoyed the mummification process and sarcophagus making, it was an amazing day!"

Isabella Thorpe



DRAGON EASE

Nursery celebrated the Chinese New Year by working together to create a giant Chinese Dragon.



U11 NETBALL

The girls in the **U11A** team have played some high level netball this term, winning all of their school matches as well as the Exeter tournament. The weather unfortunately put paid to two out of the four tournaments we had planned, but this didn't stop the girls from performing brilliantly in the IAPS Regionals. They narrowly missed out on qualifying for the Nationals but still managed to come away with medals in the plate competition. Scarlett's defending was outstanding and Anni and Sophia were spot on with their shooting all season. Arby was the most improved player over the season, mastering the role of GK. Well done girls! **LB**

The **U11B** team has had a great season of netball. The girls have played ten different schools and only lost against two! Our first match of the season, against Millfield, was the toughest which we lost 16-9, but the girls picked themselves up and the following week beat Wellington 12-4 with fantastic shooting from Alicia and Amelia, and excellent defending from Ophelia and Zaynah. Our next match was against Taunton Prep which we won 9-1. The speed on the centre of the court from Nia, Lana and Minna made all the difference in this match. We then played King's Hall beating them 14-2 and Mount Kelly, winning 6-2. The last matches of the season were against Queen's, which we drew 5-5, and The Maynard, which we won 13-3. The girls have been great to work with, showing perseverance and good team work throughout the season. I look forward to seeing their cricket skills next term. **CFH**



U10 NETBALL

Determined, competitive, versatile and committed are definitely the words needed to describe the **U10A** team. What a season they have had! Winning the first two matches of the season got the season off to a good start, although their third match resulted in a loss which took the whole squad by surprise. In true Blundell's fashion the girls worked hard, bounced back and showed resilience. After this, they won their last four matches as well as the Queen's tournament. There have been many formidable performances throughout the season and versatility amongst the squad has meant that everyone has played both attacking and defending positions. Although the whole squad have played well as a team and given their all, special mentions must go to Edie who has worked tirelessly in the centre dominating play, to Ruby and Sofia who have defended solidly and stopped many of the opposition attackers in their tracks, and to Ella and Izzy who have shown their reliability as accurate shooters. Well done to the whole of the squad for a very successful season! **JER**

The girls in the **U10B** team have had a good season of netball, only losing three matches in total. They started the season strong in mid-field with Jemima, Mimi G and Mimi M demonstrating wonderful, fast-paced play and moving the ball from the centre third to the goal circle with minimal touches. Our shooters, Daisy and Antonia, had a trio of high scoring matches against Wellington, Taunton and Exeter which took us up to half term. Heidi found her niche as GD, showing wonderful agility and marking skills. Illy proved a great WA, offering lots of support to GA and GS around the shooting circle. Hannah and Harriet worked tirelessly in defence, improving their passing and interception skills. Our last game of the season was away at Queen's and our 16-1 win allowed everyone the opportunity to have a go at shooting! **CFH**





U8 NETBALL

The U8 girls have had another fantastic term of sport with their netball and have developed into a versatile team who are all able to play in each and every position on the court. They have scored lots of goals throughout the season and conceded very few, winning every one of their school matches and also winning all of their games at the Millfield festival. Rose and Bryony were the top scorers overall and Daisy made the most interceptions as a defender. They played particularly well as a team in their last match against The Maynard, scoring 14 goals in total and only letting in 1. Well done to all of the girls for another great term and let's hope the cricket is as successful in the summer! **LB**



U9 NETBALL

Winning matches is wonderful and the U9 girls have certainly won their fair share of games this term. However, sometimes the greater lesson is in a defeat and how we rebuild ourselves in the face of adversity. What impressed me most in this group of young people was their determination to keep battling and to never lose heart, even when the going gets tough. The girls cannot be praised highly enough when it comes to the attitude they show towards lessons, their support of each other during matches and the level of effort given on a weekly basis. They have been an absolute pleasure to teach. As a team they have scored an impressive 124 goals (during eight fixtures and three tournaments) and conceded only 21. They were undefeated at the Millfield and Queen's tournaments and narrowly lost to Exeter by one goal in their tournament. Over the season, they were victorious against Exeter School, Taunton, St Peter's, Plymouth College, King's Hall, West Buckland and Mount Kelly, and were only defeated in one game by a very strong Maynard side. It has been lovely to see all of the pupils develop their skills as the season has progressed, some of whom had never played netball before. Very well done to all! **FLE**



U7 NETBALL

The girls in **Year 2** have also been working hard to develop their netball skills, which they were delighted to put to the test in competitive play at St. Peter's, as well as at our own House Matches. The enthusiasm and energy on show bodes very well for the future of Blundell's netball!

CROSS COUNTRY



HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

The course was dry and firm for House Cross Country, making each race very competitive. There were some excellent results for individuals who showed their talent at running, but equally there were many determined finishers who showed great resilience to keep going and complete the course to earn valuable points for their Houses. All of the Houses were in the running, but in the end it was Drake who emerged victorious to claim the Mildren Cross Country Cup. **SGS**



LARKMAN CUP

500 children in Years 4 to 8 from sixteen schools in and around mid-Devon ran in six races at the Blundell's Larkman Cup. The Blundell's U11 girls ran particularly well to win their age group. Blundell's came second overall, with Mount Kelly winning. This was a fantastic afternoon of determined running by each and every competitor, well done to all! **ses**





U11 HOCKEY

The **U11A** team trained hard and played hard. Some excellent passing propelled the boys to many victories throughout the season. While keeping possession when dribbling proved something of a challenge early on, a fast right hand attack with pull backs was adopted to great effect. A sturdy defence was formed to repel counterattacks and some excellent goal keeping was seen. Potential qualification to the national finals was missed out on by goal difference alone. The full squad gelled together well as a unified team, enabling individuals to fly. Well done boys! **SGS**

The **U11B** team performed well this season and all have worked hard to improve their hockey. We worked on stick skills and distributing the ball out wide in order to attack down the flanks. Every boy represented the team well and there were some memorable victories along the way. Special mentions must go to the dynamic duo of Stanley and Cassius who terrorised defenders with their pace, to Hamish who never stopped running or chasing, and to the wall of Edward and William who would point blank refuse to let any opposition member past them! A great season for all, well done chaps. **BTM**



HOCKEY

U9 HOCKEY

Blink and you'd miss a goal. This is how the **U9** boys played. They were fast and precise, typically using only a couple of passes to set up a deadly finish on goal. Many teams were shocked at the speed and power displayed by this fine team. They are certainly one to watch out for in years to come. Excellent defence kept most teams from scoring and the lightning quick counterattack usually ended with a Blundell's goal. Aside from a single loss in a tournament, the boys were undefeated throughout the season. Well done to all! **SGS**





U10 HOCKEY

Typically the end of the season arrived just as the boys of the **U10A** team were finding their form and belief in their abilities on the pitch. Individually throughout the season each had proven to be accomplished with their own skills, and hardworking in their training. It was the last game of the season against Mount Kelly, however, that proved that they had come such a long way since January, finishing the season as a tight knit unbeatable team. Even going two goals down before half time did not seem to faze them. They simply rolled up their sleeves, put their heads down and planned out their come back. The final score line of 4-2 speaks volumes. The boys' other stand out performance came earlier on in the season against King's Hall, where the 0-0 draw was hailed as a victory in itself against such proficient opposition. The boys were focused on defence, and prioritising our efforts on protecting our D paid off in a master class of tactics and determination. I would like to congratulate the boys on a wonderful season, and wish them every success in their future. **SPH**

What a great season the **U10B** team has had! The boys have worked extremely hard to improve every aspect of their game during training sessions and the progress made has been there for all to see during our matches. Forming a solid defence, we conceded very few goals and were able to achieve some fantastic results against strong opposition. What has been most impressive is the way the boys have come together as a team, each taking responsibility for their role in the team while also encouraging each other when on the back foot. I am really proud of the effort all have put in and am confident they will go from strength to strength next season.

TDG

U8 HOCKEY

It is always hard to learn a new sport and hockey is certainly one of the trickiest to master. This year's intake of **U8** superstars made it look, if not easy, then certainly manageable. Under 8 hockey can be like herding a distracted set of cats, but this year was different.

Every member of the year group listened well in games lessons and tried to put their skills into practice on the field of play. There were some memorable performances and very few defeats or even goals conceded. It has been great fun coaching the team and I look forward to picking up their hockey in the years to come. Well done boys! **BTM**



RUGBY

YEAR 2 TAG RUGBY

The Year 2 children were eager to show their tag rugby skills at the Blundell's Tag Rugby Festival in March, playing against more than 130 other children from other schools. The sun shone and sidesteps, offloads, back of hand passes and rush defences were all on display for a glorious afternoon of sport. **SGS**



DAD'S RUGBY

Proving that it's not just the youngsters who have energy to burn on the rugby field, Dads have also been keen to give it a try! On Thursday evenings after school, a friendly game of touch rugby on the astro has provided a great focus for socialising, in a manner that gives some of the older members of the Blundell's community a sporting chance!

LPM

FOOTBALL

The boys in Year 2 have also been keen to work on their football skills, developing the kind of teamwork, tactics, co-ordination, determination and athletic ability that will all become key to success across the range of competitive sports that they will encounter as they move up through the school. Whether practising in Games lessons, playing in House Matches at home, or at an away festival at St. Peter's, all were hungry for success and keen to do their very best!

LPM





The Blundell's U11 rugby team performed extremely well, winning 3 out of 4 of their matches in Jersey. Another highlight was an amazing lunch on Sunday at an all you can eat Pizza Hut! Johann Timperley, Year 6



Tour de Force

With a sprinkling of sunshine and smiles all round, the Year 6 Jersey Sports Tour was a huge success. Rugby, hockey and netball teams were all victorious on the sports field, and visits to a restored German bunker, Aqua Splash and the Maritime Museum, as well as a taste of some excellent Jersey cuisine and activities including bowling, a disco, and a film night all combined to create a wonderful experience that I am sure will live long in the memories of all our tourists! Many thanks to Mr. Martin, Miss Roberts and Miss Steele for their help and support on tour. **SGS**



On Friday 15th February, Year 6 went to Jersey. We had a few issues with kit being flown to Belfast instead of Jersey, but we were soon reunited! On the first evening we checked into our hotel, had a lovely dinner, and went bowling! In the morning, the boys went off to play their rugby matches, while the girls went to play their netball matches. There were some mixed results, although both boys and girls did experience some victory! We went to Gorey Castle and visited the trenches in the afternoon, before movie night: *Sherlock Gnomes!* The next day saw more rugby for the boys, while the girls went to play their hockey matches, winning all of their matches against Jersey! We all met up at Pizza Hut before going on to the maritime museum, then Aqua Splash! We had lots of fun there, then went back to the hotel for the DISCO! On our last day we went to Jersey Zoo and had fish and chips before heading back to the airport. It was a fantastic tour and on the plane, on the way home, the pilot made a special mention of how well Blundell's Prep had done on tour! **Zaynah Singh**, Year 6



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