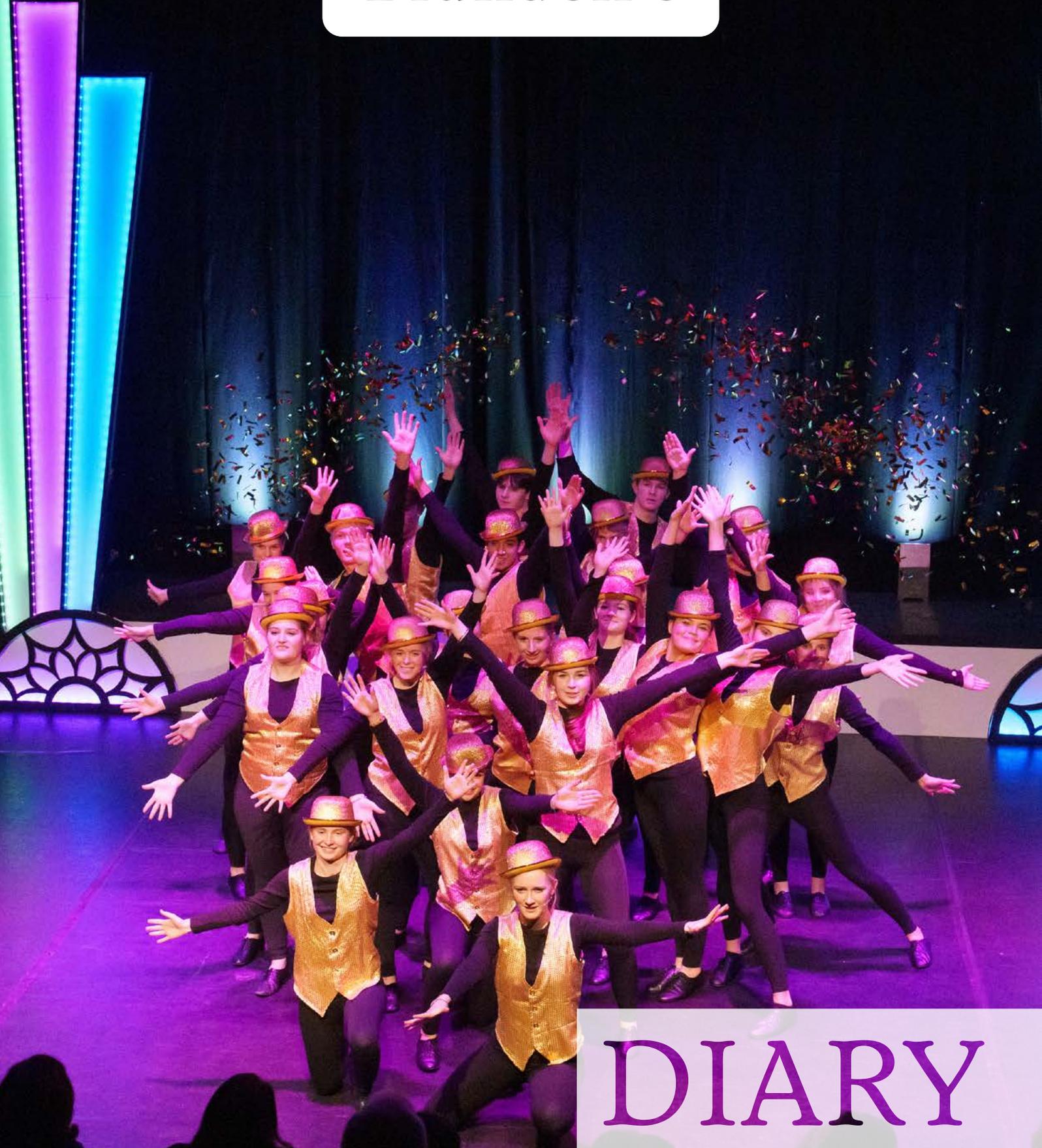


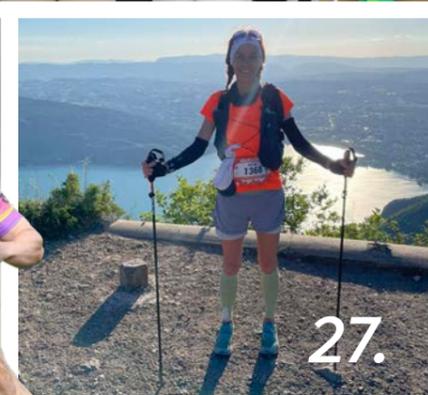


Blundell's



DIARY

AUTUMN 2022



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This end of term will be remembered for the snow and freezing weather. The snow fell in short, sharp flurries on the Saturday of the last weekend of term, but due to the freezing weather, it has remained on the ground through till the end of the term. It has certainly made for a spectacular end of term, and the pupils had fun on Saturday, but it did scupper all the normal end of term events, including the final block fixtures for rugby and hockey, and the interhouse matches lined up for the final day of term. It has therefore been an unusually calm end to the term, but perhaps it deservedly drew our attention to the events that remained.

In the last fortnight of term we enjoyed an excellent orchestral and choral concert at St Peter's church in Tiverton where our musicians played to a packed local audience. With familiar pieces from Tchaikovsky's 'The Nutcracker' as well as a rearranged 'First Nowell' by Ola Gjello, the audience were blown away by the level of musicianship of our pupils. The choir followed that up with an Advent Service on Sunday and the School Carol Service on the penultimate day of the term. This year the Carol Service was 'at home' with every alternate service being at the Cathedral in Exeter, and we enjoyed being together in the intimate setting of our own beautiful candlelit chapel.

The long awaited and much anticipated performance of A Chorus Line took place in Ondaatje Hall Theatre in the first week of December and we were treated to a musical performance of the highest order. We tend to be pretty well covered in the acting and singing departments, but the dance elements were out of most of the pupils' comfort zones, but they rose to the occasion and gave us a performance to remember. It is hard not to be moved when watching pupils perform with such passion and talent. Amazing!

Of course, when we look back to the start of the term it feels like a very long time ago. The Queen's death and the ceremonies that followed will be what this term may well be remembered for more than anything else. The CCF and the choir stepped up to make this a poignant and important memory for our pupils, and we marked the occasion with the appropriate respect and gravitas.

On the sporting front there have been many exciting moments with our girls' hockey teams excelling on various fronts, including the U16s progressing to the latter stages of the Tier 2 National competition which will continue next term. The 1st XV has had a particularly good season. After starting with a competitive loss against number one ranked Millfield, we have gone from strength to strength and the boys have racked up record wins against our rival Taunton schools as well as progressing to the Quarter Final stages of the National Cup competition with a match against Marlborough being postponed to the New Year due to snow covered pitches.

We have so much to be grateful for at school and it is only right that one of the major areas of growth this term has been in the area of Community Partnerships and Charitable activities. More pupils than ever have been involved and if nurturing compassion and a greater social awareness is not central to our educational agenda then we do not deserve the privilege we enjoy. The enthusiasm of our staff and pupils to creatively engage with concerns near and far is a great source of pride to me and I hope it is something that will continue to develop as a central theme to life at Blundell's.

**Mr Bart Wielenga**  
Head

# Academic

## Year 12 Geographers to Lyme Regis

In September our Year 12 Geographers were treated to a day out by the sea.

On a warm day, students studied the wonderful geology of the Jurassic coastline and the recent slope stabilisation scheme that has been put in place to protect the seaside resort of Lyme Regis. Clearly invigorated by the alternating bands of limestone and shale that make up the Blue Lias (the name for the local geology in the area), the students were able to study this important case study in its natural habitat and it was clear to see how unstable the cliffs actually are in this region. With an abundance of fossils and evidence of regular mass movement events, this striking stretch of coastline proved to be an stimulating destination for the first Sixth Form fieldtrip of the academic year.

## Full Colours

Congratulations to James who received his Full Colours in Academics this term.



## Space Odyssey

Earlier this term pupils from across the Prep and Senior Schools had an opportunity to gaze upon the heavens when Simon Ould from Space Odyssey brought his mobile planetarium into school. The dome inflated by air filled Big School and enabled groups of fifty students at a time to lie back and observe the regular passage of our moon, the planets of the solar system and stars in the Milky Way. We thank Simon for delivering his insight into astronomy to our pupils from Years 5-8 and 11 so effectively. - Mr Morrison



## European Day of Languages

The whole school was engaged from the start with an Escape Room based around languages! This opened up interesting discussions amongst students. At lunchtime, the canteen staff put on an amazing array of food from different countries! The Wall of Expressions - Students and Staff wrote messages in a different languages, celebrating diversity and multiculturalism. The French students delighted us with their little drawings on stereotypes. At the end of a fact quiz on France, there were some tasty home-made crêpes. There was also a very relaxing stand where you could have your hair plated and tied with a ribbon in the colour of Sweden! Year 7 and 8 asked for a pain au chocolat or a croissant in French/Spanish/German. Ouel délice! In Big School, you could enjoy watching Chinese Tea Making as well as sample it and learn how to write your name in Chinese!



## Paris Trip

On Wednesday 26th October we set off on our Parisian adventure! With backpacks on and ready, full of snacks and not much else, we headed to Tiverton Parkway and headed for the Eurostar terminal at St Pancras. Our first Parisian experience was going on the metro. It was an eye-opening experience, to say the least. We arrived at our nice little hostel next to a canal after a few stops. The next day, we woke up and had an amazing breakfast, ready for a long walk up to the art district and saw Mont-Matré. Feeling very Parisian, we walked around to take in the gorgeous scenery and enjoyed delicious croissants and hot chocolates! We went to a fun language school and then headed to the Tour Eiffel. After lots of steps, we made it to the top, which was breath-taking. We then went to the Pompadou centre. On Friday, we went to the Louvre which had a surprising short line to see the Mona Lisa; this meant that we got to take a close-up picture of her. Walking around our minds were blown; it was all simply stunning. We spent all morning there, and still didn't manage to see everything, but it has wet our appetite to visit again. We were back at the language school after lunch, and then we went to see Notre Dame. Because of the recent fire, it was still being reconstructed so we couldn't go inside, but we managed to go and do some shopping and had a nice evening outside. A perfect end to our trip. We took the metro back to the hostel, ready for bed. We had a later morning the next day, ready to get into the Eurostar. We got back to Tiverton quite exhausted from all the walking, but that didn't stop us talking enthusiastically about how much fun we had! - Isabelle and Isobel



## Debating



**Junior Debating.** Congratulations to 8A and 8M who won the Year 8 Inter-House Debating Competition last Wednesday. All members of the teams showed formidable public speaking skills in arguing the motions, 'This House believes that school children should be able to choose their own curriculum' and 'This House proposes that children should be viewed as adults in the eyes of the law.' The judges found it very difficult to choose winning teams because they all presented well-researched and developed arguments. 8M were the overall winners with a lead of half a point!

## Junior Inter-House Public Speaking Competition.

Our Junior Inter-House Public Speaking Competition was a great success. Once again, our students impressed the audience and the judges with their passionate and convincing arguments. Questions from the house panels and from the audience were thoughtfully poised and challenging. Those in the role of chair were masterful in engaging the audience and introducing their team and opposition members. Old House won the Best House shield again! Congratulations to Owain, Will and Henry who all performed to a very high standard. Tom (FH) gave an impassioned and emotive speech arguing that 'Environmental activists are reckless' and won the award for Best Speaker.

**Senior Inter-House Public Speaking Competition.** The Senior Inter-House Public Speaking Competition was an amazing event this year! Everyone who took part was compelling and passionate. This year, Jack, Nico and Finn (Old House) won the shield for Best House. Jack delivered a well-researched and convincing argument on: The Monarchy matters. Nico was relaxed and engaging in his role as Chair and Finn asked some brilliantly challenging questions. Freya (GH) gave a masterclass in public speaking on the subject: Any form of censorship is unacceptable. She was unwavering in her articulate expression and coherent argument and was awarded the prize for Best Speaker. - Mrs Worthington

## The Blackmore – Chesney Society Dinner

Earlier this term we held The Blackmore – Chesney Society Annual Dinner to celebrate and discuss History, Politics and English. There was a fantastic turnout from the Sixth Form with 60 pupils turning out to listen to the speaker Mr Simon Batten deliver a fascinating and engaging talk on 'Myth and Reality and the First World War'. Simon Batten studied Modern History at Jesus College, Oxford. He teaches History at Bloxham School. He is the author of numerous books and articles and conducts battlefield tours. His first work, 'Futile Exercise?', examined the British Army's preparations for war before 1914. His most recent book, 'Remember him at the Altar', published in August 2022, focuses on remembrance of the Great War. He is currently working on a book on the French army under Louis XIV. Simon Batten seamlessly explored the links between what we read, how information is conveyed and how we interpret the past. We were very grateful to host such an interesting speaker. My thanks go to Mrs Leah Thomas for her invaluable assistance and keen eye in helping to arrange such a memorable evening.



# Enrichment

## PSHE

As part of the "Relationships" theme in PSHE, Year 10 attended a talk from Peter Radford, a motivational speaker who founded "Beyond This", a business devoted to inspiring and motivating young people to build a better future through collective will and action. Peter spoke with passion on the topic of racism, demonstrating through videos and imagery how white privilege works, dispelling some of the myths around it and providing some tangible examples of everyday advantages that white people are able to enjoy without having to think about them, such as turning on the TV or opening the paper and readily seeing people of their race widely represented. He explained the difference between equality and equity and empowered pupils to reflect on the potential for their own unconscious bias. It was a hugely engaging and educational talk which gave pupils lots to reflect on. The talk ended on a high with Peter talking with contagious enthusiasm about the power and ability young people have to make real change in the world.



## Junior Astro Challenge



12 students recently took part in the Junior Astro Challenge run by the BAAO. This is the fourth year of the JAC competition. The students who took part in this competition should be praised not only for their success in using their imagination to come up with ideas to answer a few tricky questions, but also for their sense of adventure and purpose in being willing to give it a go when it may not be a subject they are currently studying. To be willing to try this out can be an important step in developing the right sort of attitude to difficult academic matters. There were 1289 entries from 50 schools. Special mention and congratulations to our Silver winners, Evie and Edward and Henry.

### Results

Edward	10	Silver
Evie	11	Silver
Henry	10	Silver
Harry	10	Bronze
Réuben	10	Bronze
Ella	11	Bronze
Nicholas	11	Bronze
Archie	11	Bronze
Edie	11	Bronze
Charles	11	Bronze
Thomas	10	Bronze
Betty	10	Bronze

## RePHRASE Talk

The theme in PSHE this half of term is "Relationships". Lessons have kicked off with Year 10 thinking about how we start and end relationships in a kind and healthy way, and with Year 11 looking at the characteristics of healthy relationships and reflecting on what their personal relationship values are. As part of the Relationship series, both year groups received a talk from PJ Livett, owner of the company rePHRASE (South West) who specialise in working with young people to help them understand their right to have healthy and safe relationships. The interactive talk was focused on "relationship red flags" and introduced terms such as "love bombing" and "gas-lighting" to help young people have the language to help identify and name certain behaviours. The session was full of really powerful messages and ended with some incredibly poignant reminders to pupils around not trying to repaint people once they have shown you their true colours, and that each of them are unique individuals who deserve to have happy and healthy relationships.

- Mrs Belinda Jones Head of PSHE and Teacher of Business



# Art

## Year 12



## Art and Photography Tate Trip

Earlier this term the Year 12 Art and Photography students visited the Tate Modern in London. It was a wonderful day not only for the artwork on display but also just to be in London, and to be able to walk alongside the vast queues of people visiting the Queen's coffin. Even with the busier than usual public transport the day ran extremely smoothly. In the gallery the students spent the day viewing the vast range of works on display, giving them inspiration for their own personal investigations. The photographers also took the opportunity to capture some excellent images, and these are now being used directly in their work. The students were an absolute delight to spend the day with and it was an excellent opportunity to get to know some of the newer members. It was wonderful to see historical and contemporary art in its well curated environment. Students were dazzled by artworks that they had studied and finally had the opportunity to experience in real life! An enjoyable day had by all. - Mr Yule



## Tiverton Hospital

Year 11 GAW Tutor group charity project to help the local "new Mums" when they go to deliver their babies. Soft blankets crocheted by the pupils themselves can be gifted to the Mums if needed. The tutor group are going to next knit and crochet babies bonnets for the maternity ward.

## Summer 2022 Photography Competition

A delicious visual cornucopia of photographs were submitted for the Summer 2022 Photography Competition. Images from all over the world came in and were exhibited together; vignettes and snapshots of a summer well spent! It was a challenge selecting winners from such delightful sights! Congratulation to our winners:

### Prize winners:

**Junior Prize:** 1st Ellen, 2nd Johann **Senior Prize:** 1st Sienna, 2nd Henry



Ellen, Year 8



Johann - Year 10



Sienna Year 13



Henry Year 12



Mr Ben Bowley



Mr Nick Lecharpentier

### Staff Prize:

1st Mr Ben Bowley,  
2nd Mr Nick Lecharpentier

## Trinity Art Awards



This term we have put through our first group of students for the Trinity Arts award. The Arts Award is a recognised qualification that encourages young people to explore the arts in a range of different approaches from developing practical skills, research, viewing of the arts and also sharing of these experiences. Students from the Prep School all the way up to Year 13 have been taking part at the different levels and we have ended up with 2 Explore awards, 11 Bronze award and 4 Gold awards. The depth and variety of arts explored has been exceptional and we have already got a new group of students working towards completing their awards and Hopefully, more people will look to get involved in the future. - Mr Grant

## Art Donation Book

Some of our Year 13 Art Pupils were joined for lunch by Robert, an Old Blundellian, where they discussed his time at Blundell's and how the school still had its spirit and strong identity. Robert also very kindly donated Art Reference books to the Art Department, which they were thrilled about.



# Drama

## A Chorus Line:

We have had an absolute blast putting on the Senior Play this year. Putting on a musical is always tremendous fun, but putting on a musical about the lives of professional Broadway dancers with a cast who have very little, or in most cases, absolutely no dance experience at all has been even more fun!

Stepping out of one's comfort zone is so vital to what we do in Drama and the cast certainly took the challenge head on, with energy and unwavering commitment. I think we have turned a few second left feet into right ones!

'A Chorus Line' is a musical I know well, having directed a production of it many moons ago at the Theatre Royal Stratford East. Whilst it is predominantly a light and humorous story, the more serious message of how hard it is to survive in such a competitive environment, bubbles to the surface in the second half. The trials and tribulations of an ever-changing business has never seemed more relevant post-covid. The pandemic was particularly cruel to the performing arts and live theatre and those whose livelihoods depend on it. For this reason, I felt compelled to transfer the original 1980's period to modern day 2022, in order to explore what a post-covid Broadway might look like.

For those of you who do know 'A Chorus Line' well, our choice may well have raised an eyebrow or two. Some of the original content is not appropriate for a school play. So, we cut, re-wrote, adapted, created brand new characters to accommodate a larger cast and inserted a TV show. Along with a modern setting it really did feel like a brand-new version of this much-loved musical. As always, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the many, many people who work on the Senior Play each year.

A special thanks this year must go to Jenny Bowley for her brilliant choreography.

- Mr J Rochfort



## CONGRATULATIONS

### SPEECH AND DRAMA EXAM RESULTS

Sophia	Grade 8 Acting	Merit
Wai Qui	Grade 7 Interview Techniques	Pass
Tilly	Grade 6 Acting	Distinction
Harry	Grade 6	Pass

### READING FOR PERFORMANCE

Liv	Grade 5 Acting	Distinction
Vivienne	Grade 3 Acting	Distinction
Willow & Rose	Grade 3 Duo Acting	Distinction

## Year 10 Drama Trip to see Noughts & Crosses

On the 5th October Year 10 GCSE Drama students went to the Northcott Theatre in Exeter to watch a production of Noughts and Crosses which they had to write a live evaluation on for their recent exam. It was an outstanding production which gave the students a fantastic insight into how various theatrical elements can be used to tell a story.

## Full Colours

Congratulations to Lochy who received his Full Colours in Drama.



## Drama Success

Congratulations to Henry who has been awarded the Ray Winston certificate of excellence for his Grade 5 Devising Drama examination. This award is presented by the academy for the student who achieves the highest grade worldwide in their specialism over the last academic year. A strong field and a fantastic achievement.

- Mrs Milne



# Music



## Evensong

On Wednesday 12th October, the Blundell's Chapel Choir, made up of pupils from Years 4-13, travelled to Exeter Cathedral to sing Choral Evensong. The service marked the first time that Blundell's have sung with the full University of Exeter Chapel Choir and it was a privilege for us to have been invited to join them for their weekly Evensong as part of our ongoing collaboration. The concentration and effort of the pupils was absolutely superb throughout and it was inspiring to see and hear so many young singers making such a brilliant sound. Thank you to all the pupils who took part with such enthusiasm and commitment, to all the staff who helped support the trip, and to all the parents and friends who came to listen to the service.



## Open Mic Night

The Ondaatje Hall was packed for the first Open Mic night of the year. There were a huge variety of acts from pupils in all houses, with solos, duets and bands performing singer-songwriter pieces and some rock classics. The new pop music suite that has been created as part of the Music Department building works has been put through its paces in the run up to this gig and it is wonderful to see the students from all years making such great use of the new Bowie Band Room to practice their items.



## Workshop

On Wednesday 14th September we were joined all day by Ollie from The Beat Goes On. A former member of the world-famous Stomp group, Ollie led a body percussion assembly for Year 9-13 before leading masterclasses with the academic music classes from Years 9-13. He finished the day with the whole of Year 7 and 8, except those on fixtures. All his sessions were brilliant fun, musically advanced and highly engaging. He also taught the power of pushing yourself out of your comfort zone to a place of new-found confidence.

## Music G4 in Barnstaple – choral singers

On Tuesday 27th September, singers from the Blundell's Boys and Girls Close Harmony groups attended a concert featuring the popular classical vocal quartet G4. The students had a particularly good time when they were given the opportunity to ask questions during the event - which led to a member of the group performing their lowest note (without lowering the tone of the evening)! They nearly managed to get Miss Atkins on the stage too! Overall, it was a brilliant evening, and it has certainly inspired the students with their own performances of close harmony.



## House Music

House Music was a fun occasion and a lovely way to end the first half of the term. It is wonderful to see pupils up on stage just having a great time together and there is a real feel-good factor that goes with it. Our pupils raised the Big School roof with our much anticipated, House Music competition. Well done to all our performers for putting on an amazing event. Thank you to our guest judge, Russell Collins, from Exeter Cathedral School.

### CONGRATULATIONS

- Overall winner** Francis House
- Best Solo Performance** Daisy
- House Song** Gorton House
- Best Item** North Close
- Best Overall Contribution** Toby



## St Peter's Church, Christmas Concert

In December 70 of our pupils travelled to St Peter's Church to present a Christmas Concert to parents, friends and members of the Tiverton community. The concert was a spectacular evening of extremely high-quality music with a lovely atmosphere. The concert raised money for local charities, including CHAT and was a wonderful way to start the Christmas season with the Tiverton community.



## Music Scholars' Trip to London

26 of the Year 9 -13 Music Scholars travelled to London to broaden their cultural horizons on the Sunday and Monday of October 9th and 10th. Our first port of call was to attend Choral Evensong at Westminster Abbey on Sunday afternoon. The service included a variety of music, including that by the English Renaissance composers William Byrd and Thomas Tallis, composed some 500 years ago. There was time at the end of the service to soak in the history of the building. That evening the students watched a performance by the Chineke! orchestra. We were fortunate to watch a programme performed by the Chineke! Strings, who played some classics from the repertoire of British composers such as Vaughn Williams, Gustav Holst and Coleridge Taylor, as well as a dazzling piece by the outstanding young American composer Jessie Montgomery and a wonderful performance of Vaughn William's oboe concerto by the Chineke! Co-principal oboist, Armand Djikoloum. Students were fortunate to have the opportunity to meet the founder of the Orchestra, Chi-chi Nwanoku CBE at the end of the concert. The evening highlighted some exceptional talents and Chineke! were mesmerising and inspiring for our students in their ethos, diversity, and inclusivity.

The next day the group were lucky to have a tour of the magnificent St Paul's Cathedral. Students climbed 111 metres to the external stone and golden galleries of the dome and had a spectacular view of the London skyline. Students finished the outing exploring the Crypt to see the resting places of many beloved historical figures, from musicians and artists to scientists and the Cathedral's chief architect, Sir Christopher Wren. It was an exciting and educational visit, and the students enjoyed the opportunity to see London from such a historical landmark. The whole trip was a huge success, and the students got a great deal out of their time in London, for some the first time they have spent time in the capital, and for others the first time they have been able to witness such high-quality music-making first-hand. - **Dr Leaman, Mr Johnson and Miss Atkins**

## School House Teatime Concert

On 14th November, over 40 members of School House took part in the Teatime concert. Parents were treated to solos on instruments as diverse as flute, piano, violin, saxophone, voice, guitar, and drums. It was wonderful to see the students battling their nerves and building their confidence on their instruments in a public forum. At the end of the concert the musicians came together to play the fun and lively Tequila in an open rehearsal of the SH Instrumentalists.

- **Dr Leaman**



# Sports

## Devon U16 Cricket Tour of South Africa



Over half term, three Blundellians were part of the Devon U16 cricket tour of South Africa. Having spent a week in the Kruger National Park, the team then moved onto Cape Town to play a variety of Western Province junior sides. Freddie captained the team to four victories from the six matches, contributing with both bat and ball in all games, and hitting the winning runs in the final fixture. Seb ended the tour as the top run scorer, with over 200 runs in total and a highest score of 97 not out. Seb also took wickets with his off-spin at regular intervals, while Will was on a hat-trick at one point and ended the tour taking a couple of crucial top-order wickets on the team's last day of cricket before they flew back to the UK.



## Netball

**The England Netball One Awards** took place in Birmingham's Botanical Gardens, where finalists from different regions came together. Rebecca Manley was awarded Netball Teacher of the Year for the South West. She just missed out on the national title but was up against some excellent candidates including an England/Superleague player. Rebecca's team, Titans Netball, was also a South West Finalist for Outstanding Club of the Year. Congratulations, a fantastic achievement!

### Regional Schools Competition

**U14s** - Earlier this term, the U14 Netball team played in the East Devon area tournament hosted at Blundell's School. We knew it was going to be a tough day with Maynard's, St Peter's and Exeter School in attendance. The girls finished in 2nd place. The U14s will now go into the Devon Schools competition in hopes to qualify for the Southwest Schools competition.

**U16s** - In October we took our U16As to St Peter's school in Exeter for the U16 East Devon area netball tournament. This is a new squad with the girls only recently starting to play together, they came away with a 7-3 win. Our final game was against Maynard's, we had both already qualified but this game would decide 1st and 2nd. It was a tight match, and the result was a 13-8 loss. The U16s will now join the U14s in the Devon round of the National Schools Netball Competition.

### Sister N Sport Competition

**U13s** - Sister N Sport Competition U13s - We had the first Netball game of the season, with the U13s heading to Torquay academy for the first round of the Sisters N Sport Cup. We came away with a 22-0 win and into the next round! Player of the match went to captain Daisy.

**U15s** - Our U15s took to the netball courts for the first time this season and had a long journey to Ringwood School near Bournemouth for the first round of the Sisters N Sport Cup competition. The girls did themselves very proud.

Our 15s now go into the Plate competition and the player of the match went to Ella who was the only Year 9 in the team.



## Colours

**Congratulations** to Will, Benjamin, Zeb, Freddie and Noah for receiving their full colours in Rugby.



## Swimming success at Swim England



Rose, Gemma and Jodie all had a long weekend racing at the 2022 Swim England Winter Short Course Championships in Sheffield from 2nd -4th December. Rose had her national debut, racing in the 50m breaststroke, showing great skills and turns during the race she finished in a fantastic 10th place in her age group (14yrs), a super achievement from a young swimmer at this high-level swim meet.

Gemma raced in 7 events and Jodie in 5 events over the three days, both girls setting several new best times along the way, and putting their racing experience and skills into good practice, developing race timelines and race plans for their different events. The highlight of the meet came on Saturday evening when both Jodie and Gemma had fast heat swims and returned to the pool to race in the junior finals' session.

Jodie raced the 50m breaststroke, close to her personal best time and in a strong field of swimmers placed a fantastic 5th place in the Junior final in a time of 32.25 seconds. Gemma raced the 400IM, and in an exciting race put her strong underwater swimming skills into practice setting a new best time and also placed 5th in the Junior final in a time of 4:54.43 minutes, both girls were delighted with their race performances in the evening finals. Rose, Jodie and Gemma are racing in the National Arena League Western division 1 finals on Saturday in Newport and are excited to be racing in this fun team event with swim friends. The next target meet for the girls and other Blundellian swimmers is to race at the 2023 Devon County Championships which will be held in January and February at Plymouth Life Centre.



**Congratulations** to Sidney who received his Full Colours in Basketball.

**Congratulations** to Saskia, Alice and Ylva for receiving their Full Colours in Hockey.

## Ocean Racing European Championships 2022



The Ocean Racing European Championships 2022 run by the European Canoeing Association (ECA) were held in Cagliari, Sardinia 12 – 18 September 2022. The Championships officially started with a parade of all the National teams across the beach to an amphitheatre and a minute's silence in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The British flag flew at half-mast next to all those of other nations throughout the week. The GB Ocean Racing Team is part of British Canoeing and connected to Surf Life Saving GB. The GB OR Team in Sardinia included competitors in the U18's, U23's, Seniors, Masters and Para classes. After a few days of acclimatisation and local training the Championship Race was held on the Saturday 17th, a 20km downwind race west to east across the Gulf of Cagliari. The weather conditions were so challenging that the race organisers only allowed the juniors to race when authorised by their Team Managers. The race started with flat water, sun and little wind, but as anticipated the wind picked up creating big, steep, untidy waves, with white caps which made it technically demanding and hard work. The wind direction was almost perfect but it was blowing us out to sea so we needed aim more inland to keep to the race line. It was great fun but required concentration and quick reactions - overall I was very pleased with my race and enjoyed surfing the huge waves and was thrilled to come 6th in the U18 Women and to be the 3rd GB U18 women athlete.

The GB Team report that "Connie competed in her first international Ocean Racing event in the European Championships 2022 held in Sardinia, Italy. The conditions were at the top limit for the championships to be held, in excess of 25 knots. Connie performed extremely well in a highly competitive field, keeping in touch with the main group throughout the race, picking an intelligent course for 20km across the bay, keeping the strong wind over her left shoulder, surfing and linking the waves in a highly technical race. Connie finished 6th in the under 18 class which is a superb start to her international racing and it's just reward for her three years hard training through the school programme, her paddling with Exeter Canoe Club where she is now a core member of their Junior Marathon Racing group and her independent training, this compliments her results in the Devizes-Westminster Race with Barnaby earlier in the year."

The Championships were drawn to a close with a Closing Ceremony and the GB team enjoyed joining with the Haka led by dancers from Tahiti!



# Girls Hockey

The girls have enjoyed another very successful hockey season this term. It has been the first season since 2019 without any COVID disruption and 120 matches have been played by our 13 teams! All teams have enjoyed some great victories and have tested themselves against the best schools on the South West circuit.



There is a lot of talent in School House and we therefore fielded five teams most weeks allowing every girl who wanted to an opportunity to play and improve. We have enjoyed some excellent results and the U13As are still in the National cup competition with the West of England finals in March. The U14s highlight of the season must be their 3-2 away win at Millfield on the weekend before their West of England Finals day.

The 15s have had a very strong season with strong wins against Taunton, KBS, King's Taunton and Sherborne to name a few. Many of these U15 girls have played up in the U16s National Cup competition and are still going strong. A narrow 0-1 loss to Millfield meant the girls are now making their way in the U16 Tier 2 National Cup. Convincing wins against King's Taunton, Clayesmore & Cheltenham Ladies College have meant they have set up a Quarter Final with Marlborough College in the New Year. The senior teams have once again been a significant force on the circuit. The 4s, 3s and 2s have won the majority of their games with the 3s enjoying wins against Sherborne, KBS and Mount Kelly 2nds this half term. The 1st team have been outstanding again under the leadership of Miss Gill. They have won the majority of their games but perhaps the highlight of the season was stopping Millfield 1st XI's perfect season with a hard-fought 3-3 draw. The U18s had a hiccup on the road against a well-drilled Wells Cathedral side which prevented them progressing in the National Cup. However, word gets around and the girls were invited by Rugby School to play in prestigious annual guest match which provided the perfect finish to a great season.

# Rugby Cup Success

The 1st XV produced their best performance of the season in a tough encounter against Sir Thomas Rich's school in Gloucester, in the U18 National Cup. The bedrock of the side's success was their physicality, both when defending and in attack. We dominated a far larger pack and stifled Rich's efforts to breakout. Aggressive defence, with an intelligent kicking game, which created pressure in the correct parts of the field, combined with a determination and freedom to attack when opportunities presented themselves, meant that the squad came out as 31-14 victors.

The recent bad weather means that this is not the usual end of the rugby season report we might be use to. With the postponement of the U18 National Cup Quarter Final against Marlborough, the tournament will extend into next term. Hopefully more success to follow! The rugby provision at Blundell's does not just focus on the elite performance end of the game, however. It is great that we had more pupils representing the school in various formats of the game than we have had to date. In fact, in November we managed to have every single healthy and available boy of School House playing, either full contact, constrained contact or touch. Plenty of positives to take from the season and it sets us up well for the Sevens next term.



# Remembrance Service

In turbulent times for the world it was fitting, as ever, to pause for a while and reflect on past and present conflict: those who have lost their lives for their country, especially the Old Blundellians we remember in the Roll of Honour, and the broader picture of warfare internationally. It was fitting, too, that in the Litany for Peace this year, both Russian and Ukrainian, voices were heard. The R't Rev'd Jackie Searle Bishop of Crediton told the story of the Tomb of the

Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey, buried among kings, and for whom even Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II "diverted" on her last journey into the church of the nation's royal families. Bishop Jackie reminded us that Remembrance should divert us all, it should inconvenience us, it should make us stop, it should make us think.



# Co-curricular



## World Challenge Trip: Morocco

During the summer an intrepid band of seven Blundell's pupils set out to go to Madagascar... then it was changed to Ecuador... and finally at the end of term they got on a plane to Morocco after the situation in both the previous two destinations had deteriorated so much that it was unsuitable for a school trip! There had been an awful lot of build-up training and anticipation was high, despite the large queues and long journey to Gatwick from Blundell's. The first phase of the trip was a community project on the edge of the Sahara Desert, which was a little bit of a shock to the system for the pupils. The project was helping out at a local school in one of the poorest parts of Morocco, helping to renovate the grounds while the pupils were on their school holidays. The second phase was the trekking phase, and this was through the beautiful Atlas Mountains to the south of Marrakech. The slight change in temperature was a welcome change for the group after a long journey up into the mountains and to the first village where we met our guides in the gite. Everyone was keen for the first day of trekking and it started with a fantastic walk up a valley to a spectacular mountain pass, before descending to our campsite for the night in a riverbed. We stopped at numerous Berber villages along the way, during the holiday of Eid Al Kabir, so were witness to the traditional celebrations, which were both fascinating and a little terrifying with men dressed in goat skins chasing the young of each village! The third day was perhaps the most challenging, and by this stage some were beginning to suffer with blisters and other challenges bought on by trekking in the mountains! The whole team pulled together and made it through to the end with a welcome stay in a gite and some very comfortable beds in comparison! A challenging yet highly rewarding section of the trip for our Blundellians. The third and final phase of the trip was the rest and recuperation phase which took us to Essaouira and Marrakech.

Essaouira was a welcome change from the heat and the dust of the Atlas - it is a large and bustling town on the coast, where the group had their first experience of a Moroccan souk, which was a nice gentle introduction compared to Marrakech! The Atlantic Ocean was a welcome sight after the heat and dust of the desert, although it was surprisingly quite cold! The pupils were allowed a certain amount of freedom here to go and explore what is a very historic and busy port town, with some of the freshest and most delicious seafood you can get in Morocco. Hotel Ali, where we stayed was just steps away from the main market square which is oven-like in the heat of the day, but at night comes alive with snake charmers and market sellers. Marrakech is a bit of a sensory overload - there is so much hustle and bustle and things to see and do. Gone was the refreshing breeze from the Atlantic, replaced by occasional sandstorms blowing in off the Sahara, which certainly made al fresco dining on the last night interesting - gritty! We finished off the trip with the 20 Dirham challenge - the group had 20 dirhams each, and 20 minutes, to find the tackiest/ worst souvenir available. Despite some strong entries of dubious looking dolls, and some downright odd ones in the form of hair taken from the floor of a Barbour shop, the winner was the Marrakech key ring, on which Marrakech was spelt incorrectly!

Overall, the trip was a huge success and all members of the group had a rewarding and challenging time. The fact that it was so last minute and unknown only heightened the challenge for the pupils and they showed great resilience and flexibility to absorb the changes without complaint and conduct a World Challenge Trip to remember. They certainly contributed in a meaningful way to a rural Moroccan school and engaged with travel in a sustainable and responsible way - a wonderful trip that I, and the rest of the group would highly recommend.

**Mr Haywood**

“Overall, the trip was a huge success and all members of the group had a rewarding and challenging time..”



## Field Day

Another busy Field Day saw pupils at various locations from London to Plymouth, conducting a variety of teambuilding and academic visits. Year 7 went to Rosemoor for a variety of Art related activities. Year 8 had an excellent day out on Dartmoor with Adelong Adventure, whilst Year 9 had very informative day at Plymouth visiting the National Marine Aquarium, how learning how STEM can impact and improve the wildlife in our oceans. Year 10 and the CCF conducted a high ropes course, not for faint hearted at

the River Dart, whilst other members had a more down to earth experience at

Somerset Adventure, learning bushcraft and completing the now infamous Gun Run Challenge. The CCF also went to the range where the Senior cadets completed their rifle qualifying shoot. Year 11 had a day of water activities and teambuilding at Taunton whilst Year 12 completed a more demanding leadership challenge at Black Rock Outdoor on the Quantocks. The 45-mile Ten Tors Challenge team had a good day walking across Dartmoor. Academically our Year 8 had an opportunity to complete their Sports Scholar Day whilst our music Scholars spent a couple of days in London. Our Year 13 had a good day completing their UCAS applications and a few even managed to fit some surfing in later in the afternoon. And with pupils across the Year groups conducting play rehearsals the whole school was very busy as usual on Field Day.



## Williams Cup

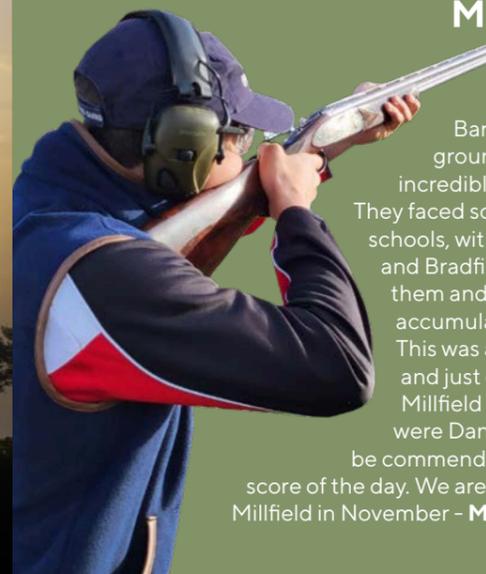
The Williams Cup took place this last weekend, and Year 9 were in good spirits on the Sunday despite having to camp at school due to the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II the week before. The tent inspection was the first task, which judged by Mr Hayward looked at how well they set their tent up for the night, NC were clear winners of this, with a close second from Francis House (FH) - Mr Hayward is always open to bribery with chocolate! The tutor challenge followed this to varying degrees of success with good performances from GH and FH again, but North Close (NC)'s relay race although messy was the runaway success. The scavenger hunt and pacing task came next, and this proved just how accurate counting paces can be for judging distances, with some incredibly close and accurate measurements from all the houses. Overnight the rain did little to dampen the spirits and Year 9 woke up bright and early for the trip up to

Wimbleball and the rest of the challenges. Due to the lake being so empty, land-based activities were decided upon and a round robin of axe throwing, orienteering, high ropes, rock climbing, archery and catapult building the order of the day. Special commendation must be made to FH here who won 4 out of the 7 challenges set by Channel Adventure and to OH who set a record score on the catapult challenge. Overall, it was a great opportunity for Year 9s to bond as a house group, develop some team spirit and be taken outside of their comfort zones and challenge themselves in an outdoors environment whilst competing with each other. This was certainly accomplished and the manner in which they conducted themselves and the friendly spirit of the competition is a credit to the year group. A huge amount of fun was had by all, and some very tired faces made their way back to Blundell's on Monday afternoon after successfully completing the Williams Cup 2022.



## Marlborough Invitational Shoot

The Blundell's Clay pigeon shooting club had a fantastic start to the shooting season at Marlborough in the first half of Autumn term. The team consisting of Teddy, Dan, Barnaby and John had a rather ignominious start with a flat tyre on the way to Barbury shooting ground, but this did nothing to quell the excitement at the first shoot of the term. The boys shot incredibly well throughout at what was a very well organised shoot, blessed with incredible weather. They faced some stiff competition from the usual rivals of Millfield, but also faced many of the top public schools, with teams from Eton, Radley, Marlborough, Rugby, Cheltenham, Pangbourne, Sherborne and Bradfield (to name but a few) all in attendance. The boys did not let this (or their suits!) daunt them and Blundell's won the flush competition outright, only missing 6 birds out of 60 and accumulated a total of 115, joint third overall, but 4th on countback from the flush shoot. This was an incredible achievement, considering they had only one week of training and just goes to show the talented shots we have at school. We were only behind Millfield and 2 Marlborough teams that were on home turf. Our Standout performers were Dan and John who both top scored with 33 each, but the whole team must be commended for the flush shoot where they communicated well and got the best score of the day. We are hopefully looking forward to more competitions, with the next one at Millfield in November - **Mr Haywood**



# Community

## Heathcoat Primary School Year 4 & 6 Activity Day

On 29th September Year 6 from Heathcoat Primary School kickstarted this year's series of Primary School Activity Days with great enthusiasm. 55 very excited visitors were split into three groups to rotate around a series of Biology led workshops focusing on animals and their habitats which were led by several Blundellians.

In the afternoon, our Year 10 Sports Leaders took the afternoon session of tag rugby. The Year 6's put their huge amounts of energy to full effect in each of the skills sessions leaving just enough energy to finish this visit with some cake before heading back to school.

Throughout the day it was impressive to see how the Year 6's fully engaged with everything on offer, they are a real credit to their school.

From Clare Soper, PE Subject Leader Heathcoat Primary School: "Once again, thank you ever so much for your hospitality on Thursday. We all had a wonderful and engaging day across the enriched activities.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on science workshops in the morning to burning off our enjoyable lunch with your young leaders in the afternoon developing their tag rugby skills."

On Friday 14th October it was Year 4's turn to visit from Heathcoat Primary. Our youngest external visitors so far and what an amazing amount of energy and enthusiasm came with them! They followed the same programme with morning activities based in Biology, lunch and then sport in the afternoon with our Sports Leaders. It was a pleasure to have them with us for the day and we look forward to their return in the spring term.

## Wilcombe Primary School Year 6 Activity Day

After focusing on Physics in February, it was excellent to welcome back Year 6 from Wilcombe Primary School for a day of Chemistry and Hockey. The Year 6's loved using all the various glassware from test tubes and beakers to burettes and making a wonderful range of colours as they carried out investigations.

Moving to the Astro pitches they had an hour of hockey led by our Year 10 Sports Leaders who put them through their paces with a range of skill sessions. After a doughnut, a final chat, and another round of enthusiastic questions it was time to head back to Wilcombe.

"Once again, we would like to thank all the staff and students at Blundell's for inviting us to spend the day at the school. Our Year 6 children had great fun exploring the science labs, carrying out chemistry experiments and learning about acids and alkalis. All the children enjoyed the delicious lunch followed by hockey drills in the afternoon. It was great for our children to be able to use all the wonderful facilities that Blundell's has to offer and this time we also enjoyed a quick visit to the chapel and library, linking what we had already learnt about Remembrance to the history of Blundell's. We are very much looking forward to working with the staff and students of Blundell's again and attending future events". Nikki Sampson, Year 6 Teacher at Wilcombe Primary School



## Report to the Town Council

On Monday 3rd October, Rosa and Isobel who are town members of the Blundell's Community Action Team gave a joint presentation with two members from Tiverton High School to Tiverton Town Council.



## Tiverton in Bloom Awards

'It was a shame that we could not attend the presentation evening this year as it fell during half term, but we are very pleased to have won the best School Garden again this year in Tiverton. The RHS judges who visited the Blundell's Garden in mid July have also awarded us the highest, 'Level 5 Outstanding' for the Garden at school. A real testament to the hard work and dedication of the pupils who take part in the various garden based activities throughout the year'.



## Tiverton High School Ambassador Meeting

In September, we met the new Ambassadors for Tiverton High School. In that meeting we all confirmed a wish to strengthen our partnership. Sixteen members of CATS discussed possible joint projects to support our community. Here are just some of the great ideas that were suggested:

### Charity & Fundraising

- Joint homeless sleep out for CHAT
- Sustainability & the Environment
- Year 7 recycling competition
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity
- Celebration of different cultures
- Academic & Creative Arts
- Combined Open Mic/Performing Arts nights
- Sports & Outdoor Pursuits
- Sports Leaders running an event
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Peer Listener Programme



# Charity



**School Charities:**  
Hospiscare, CHAT, Little Heroes and Bhambayi Project Funds raised this term.

## October - Home clothes day

The theme was sustainable fashion where students invited to wear second hand clothes.

Y12, Poppy Avery led a well researched and brilliantly delivered Chapel to help raise awareness on this important theme.

Charity film night showing Top Gun that evening was also very popular.

Ragbag - Collection of unwanted clothing.

Combined events raised £1.2k.



## Food Donations

Over a period of 2 days Blundell's pupils from Year 7- 12 offered support to CHAT's campaign to gather donations for our local food bank. This was part of a nationwide collaboration between food banks, TESCO and Fairshare. Our pupils engaged politely with shoppers, sharing information about most needed items and encouraging them to add something to their baskets to donate. We learned that community spirit in Tiverton is alive and well and it was humbling to observe the generosity of many individuals. We appreciate the opportunity CHAT gave us to partner with them as they work to prevent homelessness in our area.

## Christmas Fair

Held in the new Garden Cabin. Sold crafts that students have been making this term including Festive jewellery, sweets, candles, wreaths, hot chocolate stirrers and star key rings made by the children from Bhambayi.

The Garden Projects Activity team have been making bug hotels, bat boxes and honey which they sold at the Christmas Fair and raised over £600.



£600 raised



RESTORING HOPE. RE-STORYING LIVES.

£2,000 raised

## Bhambayi Christmas Appeal

The team at Bhambayi made a special video to say thank you to Blundell's for the donations they received last year and to show what the money was spent on. Tutor groups were invited to write a Christmas card to one of the orphans at the Bhambayi Project and to learn the dance to the Woza song (which has been created specifically to support this organisation.) Raised £1k through tutor groups xmas donations and with other events this year have given £2k to this charity so far this year.



£1,040 raised

## Wine Tasting

Thanks to Gemma Welden from the Jolly Vintner for organising such a fantastic evening. All ticket proceeds went to charity. Raised £1k for school charities. Attended by Blundell's (staff, parents, OBs) and wider local community. 10 wine suppliers brought an array of sparkling, red, white and dessert wines from around the world, (including Uganda!) All can be purchased from Jolly Vintner. Proud to support local shops.



## Gorton House Toy Drive

In the run up to Christmas, Gorton House have been collecting toys. This is in aid of the Salvation Army & CHAT 2022 toy drive, who will then distribute the gifts to school children in Tiverton. It has always been important for the Gorton House to appreciate that we can make a difference to our local community, and we were happy to hand the gifts over to CHAT for them to wrap and distribute. Hopefully a few extra smiles will appear this festive season.

# Announcements

## Births

### William Percy Isdell-Carpenter

Congratulations to Rebecca Isdell-Carpenter (Staff) on the arrival of her son, William Percy Isdell-Carpenter who was born on Wednesday 17th August 2022 at 1325, at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton, weighing 9lbs 8ozs.



### Marley Manu Oran Barnsbrook

Congratulations to Hannah & Luke Barnsbrook (Staff) who welcomed a baby boy, Marley Manu Oran Barnsbrook at home in Old House.



### Humphrey Robert Bright

Congratulations to Lauren Bright (Staff) on the arrival of her baby boy, Humphrey Robert Bright on July 11th weighting 8lbs 13oz.

## OLD BLUNDELLIAN DEATH NOTIFICATIONS

(-.05.22) Peter Waterfield (SH1961-64)

(02.05.22) William Thomas (M1952-56)

(21.05.22) Richard Leopold Calvert Williamson (P1949-52)

(26.05.22) Col. Christopher B Ward (W1941-44)

(07.06.22) Robert Longhurst (P1964-69)

(10.06.22) John Rae (SH1944-48)

(11.06.22) Thomas Geoffrey Carpenter (OH1945-50)

(14.06.22) George Christopher Craze (SH1944-47)

(15.06.22) Robert Alexander Leest (SH1957-62)

(17.06.22) Dr O H Donald Portsmouth (FH1941-47)

(12.08.22) Timothy Mark Routley Lintott (W1965-69)

(20.08.22) John Andrew Blackwell (OH1945-50)

(20.08.22) David Ford Copleston ((1940-47)

(-.09.22) David Campbell (FH1967-60)

(17.09.22) John Rowland (W1949-52)

(12.10.22) Derrick Denner (Former Staff 1966-96)

(21.11.22) Jeremy William Lloyds (FH1968-73)

# Blundell's Community

The term may have gone by in a flash, but it's rewarding to feel we have accomplished a great deal. We are still riding on the success of the Giving Day back in June 2022 and as a new year commences, it feels a real achievement to know that thanks to 300+ donors we have been able to offer 10 additional bursary places this year.

This is a fantastic achievement and one that must be celebrated.

It's also been great to see House Parents purchase a much loved and appreciated item for each House thanks to donors of our Annual Fund (see below). If you are curious what is in store for 2022/23, a list of Annual Fund projects is below and if you wish to be a part of this, [our online donation portal is open](#).

If you are a retired Old Blundellian, you may have received a call from one of our Pupils. A dozen Year 9s have signed up as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award to make calls to our Community. What has been fascinating to witness is the confidence gained by these pupils making calls and the genuine enjoyment these pupils have from speaking to these Old Blundellians.

We have a good array of upcoming events this year, and it was great to kick it all off with such a successful Gala Dinner which raised £10k. We are looking forward to hosting a reception in Bristol on 23 February and London Drinks on 18 May.

I very much hope to see many of you throughout the year, otherwise let's stay in touch via the Popham Post newsletter.

 Ben Boswell, Director of Development



*Sophie & Bertie have been working together to make calls to our Old Blundellians*

## Impact Report for September 2021 to August 2022

Thanks to our generous and supportive Community we have been able to achieve a great deal. This means we've been able to support more pupils, more projects and look to a hopeful future for many others at Blundell's.



## Annual Fund Success

A huge thank you to the 62 donors who helped raise the funds to purchase a project for each House. Donations to the Annual Fund have allowed the Houses to purchase something that is over and above general budgets and you'll be able to see by these photos how much it has positively impacted the pupil's lives in House.

The Annual Fund is a pot of money, raised by the Development Office, and allocated to specific projects. At the start of each year the Development Office invites proposals from across the school. These are then considered at the Annual Fund Committee Meeting, and money is then raised for those selected projects.



**Westlake:** The House has been quick to put the generous donations to use with a wonderful pizza oven. It means pizza nights can happen regularly; no expert chef required!



**Francis House:** The FH games room now boasts a 7-foot, coin-operated Super League pool table which is set to 'free play' for all to enjoy during free time.



**Petergate:** The outdoor table and chairs has given the boys the opportunity to sit and enjoy each other's company, either after a match of football or during a pizza evening.



**North Close:** Repairs to the wood-fired pizza oven and custom-made shelter around it has meant lots of pizza evenings this term!



**School House:** The DT pupils designed and made a large triple section planter. It looks lovely outside the SH patch and will last a very long time.



**Gorton House:** The newly redesigned outdoor space is exactly what the pupils of Gorton House need. This comfortable and sheltered space will make a significant difference to how the outdoor space is used by the pupils.



## Annual Fund Projects for 2022/23

Camera Lens & additional cameras for the Art Department

Water Polo Goals for House Competitions & Sport

Green Power Car Project for Design & Technology

African Drumming set for the Music department (both Prep & Senior resource)

Smallholding Farm for animals for the Prep School

[cafdonate.cafonline.org/19168](https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/19168) (Prep)

[cafdonate.cafonline.org/22136](https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/22136) (Senior)



**Prep School:** The Prep School's new Traverse Wall has been a fantastic addition to our play area.

## Past Events

### OB Golfers Bring Home the Trophy!

A huge congratulations to our OB Golf team who won the Cyril Gray tournament for the second time. The Cyril Gray is a six a side scratch foursome knockout for participants over 50 years of age. It is played at Worplesdon GC in Surrey and was first held in 1971. Blundell's have now won it twice, the first time being 1978. This is a fantastic achievement, and we are delighted to share this success.



Left to right: Bill Cooper (SH 1978-83), Richard Hine (W 1972-76), Sam Lake, Paul Vicary (M 1965-69), Peter Lowe (W 1954-59), Phil Hine (W 1971-75), Kevin Ramshaw (OH 1978-83), Simon Waddington (M 1971-75) and Carey Ashworth (M 1974-79).

### Hare and Hounds Alumni X-Country Run

Well done to the following OBs who took place in the Annual Hare & Hounds alumni race; Tom Cumberlege (SH 1990-93) (4th), Justin Reynolds (SH 1986-91) (14th) and Will Holland (P 1986-91) (20th) in the Men's 45 Category.



### Reichwald Trophy Fives Tournament - Sunday 2nd October

Despite the dire weather warnings earlier in the week, the sun really shone at the 14th Reichwald Tournament. Frank Akerman (P 1953-58), the tournaments creator kept a benign eye on it from afar! It was a leaner affair than usual, due to various circumstances, with 8 current pupils competing against 8 Old Blundellians. It was good to welcome Robin (FH 1983 - 88) and Edmund Thompson (FH 1980-85) back and who evidently had lost none of their skills! It was also good to see Ed Swarbrick (OH 2015-22) and Addie Chai (OH 2011-18) as the most recent OB contingent.

Janet Wooff (GH 1980-82, OB Club Secretary) provided a very tasty lunch to inaugurate the event. The afternoon was organised and managed with his normal efficiency by Wayne Enstone, ably assisted by Alexandra Steel (GH 1998-2005), who currently runs the OB Fives club. The tournament followed its usual pattern of a current pupil playing with an Old Blundellian. The pairings were spot on and resulted in many close and tough matches. After two and a half hours of intense play, all players felt that they had deserved such an excellent tea! The standard of play was extremely high and there were many gripping matches that went to the wire. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, well supported by parents and families.

Mr Wielenga presented the trophies and commented that Fives was an essential and characterful part of Blundell's sporting life and exhorted the current players to go and spread the word! Particularly among the girls. We hope to welcome many to next year's tournament! For more photos, log onto the Blundell's community website and select 'Past events'.



#### Reichwald Fives Results:

Winners of Reichwald Trophy:

Jacob (Y13) / Robin (FH 1983-88)

Runners Up: Jemima (Y11) / Addie (OH 2011-18)

1st Plate: Dom (Y13) / Alexandra Steel (GH 1998-05)

### One Day Event

This year's Blundell's One Day Event took place once again at the stunning Pontispool Equestrian Centre, near Taunton. Our 70cm team consisting of Daisy (Y10), Phoebe (Y7), Daisy and William (Y10) won their Team competition. We also had some individual placings with Phoebe E coming 6th in the 70cm and in the 90cm Bea (Y10) was 4th and Mima (Y9) 8th.

Of course, an event on such a scale as this cannot run but for the goodwill, support and hours of work put in by the Blundell's Equestrian parent body and some 120 volunteers played their part in making the day such a success. A huge thank you to the ODE Committee for putting in many hours to get the event off the ground once again this year.



### Blundell's Community Rugby Trophy Tournament and Family Day Sunday 18th September

The third Blundell's Community Touch Rugby Tournament and family day took place outside the Beale Centre on Sunday, September 18, yet again with great success.

Eight teams took part in the 6-side competition, three of which came from the 'Blundell's Braves', a group from the school community that play every Thursday evening.

Teams from Stags Estate Agents, Tiverton RFC, King's Taunton, FH Old Boys and Millfield made up the two pools of four teams. At the end of the afternoon of great touch rugby, the Braves won the overall trophy and the plate trophy.

Huge thanks go to Tom Cowle (W 1991-96), and the Friends of Blundell's Prep Committee who organised the event, along with running a great BBQ, cake and drinks stall. Thanks also goes to St Austell Brewery who supplied the Korev Lager mobile bar again. And thanks also to Simon Swain and Andy Southgate for being wonderful referees.

If you wish to participate in this annual event or would like to find out more information about the Blundell's Community Touch Rugby

Thursday evening training sessions, please contact Tom Cowle on 07815 122950 or Janet Wooff at the OB Club. The sessions run every Thursday from 7.00pm to 8.30pm, followed by drinks in the Beale Centre and all are welcome.

To see more photos please log onto the Blundell's community website [blundells.alumni-online.com/PastEvents](http://blundells.alumni-online.com/PastEvents) and select 'Past events'.



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## Jonathan Lane (P 2010-17)

was nominated to be a torchbearer in the Queen's Baton Relay in Exeter for the Commonwealth Games. Jonathan was nominated for his work and voluntary support during the pandemic with the NHS and St John's Ambulance. Jonathan's work to support the community continues and he was involved in Platform Jubilee celebrations and then later sadly, to support the crowds as a paramedic during the Queen's transport to Westminster Abbey.



## Kate Wheatley nee Pyle (GH 1987-89)

took up running just after her third child, Jude, was born 10 years ago. She started running whilst pushing him in his pushchair around the lanes of Devon. She entered her first 10km race in Totnes in 2013 and clearly, she hasn't stopped since! It's probably easy for someone like Kate to fall in love with running, because it doesn't matter if it's flat, hilly, muddy, windy, hot.....she just loves running!

Her 10 km races eventually became half marathon races and then they became Marathons. Kate has since completed four London Marathons, one Brighton Marathon, and several Ultra Marathons; all for various charities including training for London Marathon 2023 in aid of Hospiscare, Exeter.

In May of this year, she was fortunate enough to be given a place in the 88km, 5000m elevation Ultra Marathon in the Alps. She finished under the 24-hour cut off in 18 hours 26min. Kate hopes this event will have helped her mentally prepare for her next challenge happening in May half term when she is competing in the Bob Graham Round; a 66 mile, 27,000 ft challenge across 42 of the highest peaks in the Lake District.

Alongside running, Kate began to dabble in a few triathlons a couple of years ago. Kate describes completing the Ironman in Muskoka Canada as 'something she never thought possible, you just never know what you can achieve, mentally or physically until you put yourself out there.'

Kate's husband, Bruce, introduced her to the Age-Group British Triathlon organisation which enables triathletes to have a go at representing Great Britain in Age-Group European and World Championships. Kate thought she'd give it a go, but sadly was disqualified in a GB European Standard Triathlon event in August due to a navigational error. With only 1 qualifying event left at the start of September, Kate tried again and came 3rd in her age group! This means she has gained a place on the GB Age Group World Championship team and will be going out to Spain in September 2023 to compete for Great Britain. Kate says, 'running and competing has always been about supporting my mental health and helping to fundraise for charities close to my heart and I hope to continue it long into the future.'

Kate runs (no pun intended) the Blundell's Association parent group and runners meet each Tuesday at 6.15pm in the Prep School's car park for a quick run, all welcome!



## Chris Long (M 1982-87) and David Armstrong (FH 1947-52)

met up in their home of New Zealand, in a bizarre coincidence they have ended up living a stone's throw away from each other in Aotearoa, NZ. They spent a pleasant morning reminiscing their experiences at school which despite being 30 years apart had many similarities. The only Master they had in common though was Ted Crowe, who started his career with David and ended as Chris left school.



## Encounters with The Queen

"In 1980 I was serving as a young subaltern in the Royal Green Jackets. We were based in Hounslow undertaking Public Duties before embarking on a tour in Northern Ireland. I was the Guard Commander at Windsor Castle was summoned out of the blue to a family Sunday dinner with Her Majesty.

I made my way to the Royal apartments and sat next to the Queen at an intimate private dinner which included various European Royals and close members of the Royal Family. She was most gracious and kind and showed particular interest in the Battalion. And I clearly remember after dinner, we spent about 15 minutes searching for her glasses which she had lost!" - **Richard Lanyon (FH 1971-76)**



## Robert Wilson (NC 1953-57)

wins award in first ever International Tea Academy Awards, with his tea 'Ceylon New Vithanakanda' run by his business, Wilson Family Teas. **Wilson Family Teas.**



"I was introduced to Her Majesty in 1995 when she and the Duke of Edinburgh visited the University of Exeter. I was Chairman of the Reader's and Lecturer's Association that year. In 2020, I was awarded my MBE by Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace.

On both occasions she asked me questions to which I didn't know the answers. I realised afterwards that I needn't have worried about being 100% accurate on numbers, no one was going to check! I also went to a Garden Party in July 1998 but didn't have the opportunity to talk to her, just smile and curtsy." **Anne Mayes (Former Governor)**



# Charity Gala

Blundell's first charity Gala was a great success, raising £10k for charity! Over 100 guests attended a 3-course meal and charity auction. The food was superb, with Food4You providing a seasonal meal, where the highlight was Fillet of Devonshire beef.

Over 20 auction items were up for bids on the night and thanks to some very generous donors and bidders, we now have £10k to support Blundell's charities (Little Hero, Bhambayi Project, CHAT & Hospiscare), fund for school tours for bursary recipients and Blundell's Community Partnerships.

Thank you to **Savills Estate Agents** and Sir Christopher Ondaatje (P 1947-51) for sponsoring the event and to all the guests in attendance. We look forward to planning this event again next Winter 2023.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JAN 2023

**11th JAN** – Winter Lunch – Annabel Venning. Topic: 'To War with the Walkers: One Family's Extraordinary Story of the Second World War'. Contact: OB Club

### FEB 2023

**8th FEB** – Winter Lunch – Speaker Ian Barnes (Estates Bursar 2018-present). Topic: 'Campus strategy'. Contact: OB Club

**23rd FEB** – Bristol Regional Drinks. Contact: The Development Office

### MARCH 2023

**4th MARCH** – Russell Run for Alumni. Contact: Development Office

**8th MARCH** – Winter Lunch – Speaker Revd Tim Hunt (Chaplain 2001 – present). Topic: "Is there a continuing relevance for regular chapel worship/services at school in an increasingly secular age and if so, what is it?" Contact: OB Club.

**25th MARCH** – Class of 1993, 30 Year Reunion from 5.30pm. Contact: Development Office

**24th/25th MARCH** – OB Sport Weekend. Contact: OB Club

### APRIL 2023

**28th APRIL** – Sir Francis Popham Society Dinner. Contact: Development Office

### MAY 2023

**10th MAY** – 1604 Lunch, Blundell House. Contact: Development Office

**18th MAY** – London Drinks. Contact: Development Office

**25th MAY** – Donor VIP Garden Day from 3pm to 5pm, Blundell's Garden. Contact: Development Office

### JUNE 2023

**10th JUNE** – OB Day. Contact: OB Club

**30th JUNE** – OB Club OB Current Parent & Grandparent Speech Day Lunch. Contact: OB Club.

## Save the Dates

### 23rd FEB 2023

Bristol Regional Drinks for Parents & OBs on Wednesday 23 February 2023 at the Cosy Club, Bristol.

### 24th/25th MARCH 2023

OB Sport Weekend  
There will be OB teams competing in Fives (co-ed), Hockey (co-ed), Football (boys), Shooting (co-ed) and Netball (girls) against school teams.

All abilities welcome including spectators. Visit the website for more information.

OB Club - Sport ([blundells.org](http://blundells.org))

### 10th JUNE 2023

OB Day - further details will be made available in the Spring, in the meantime please put this date in your diary. Contact: OB Club

### 30th JUNE 2023

OB Club OB Current Parent & Grandparent Speech Day Lunch  
Contact: OB Club

# Forthcoming Events

Events in purple: Prep School Events

Events in red: Senior School Events

Events in green: Blundell's Community/Association

 Academic

 Social Event

 Sports

 Coffee Mornings

 Religious Service

 Music

 Public Speaking

 Theatre

## January 2023

5th THU		<b>Blundell's Association Parents' Coffee Morning</b> FOBs Café / 8:30am / Parents welcome
7th SAT		<b>Parents' Prayer Group</b> Lady Chapel / 8:30am / Parents welcome
11th WED		<b>OB Winter Lunch: Speaker:</b> Annabel Venning Author 'To War with the Walkers' Beale Centre / 12:30pm / Contact: OB Club
12th THU		<b>Reception Meeting for Parents</b> Pre-Prep Hall / 8:30am / Reception Parents
		<b>Toddler Group commences</b> Pre-Prep Hall / 2pm / Parents welcome
20th FRI		<b>Blundell's Association Film Night</b> Squash Courts / 7:00pm / All welcome
23rd MON		<b>Open Morning - Prospective Parents</b> Prep / 9:30am / Prospective Parents
26th THU		<b>Year 3 Parents Lunch</b> Prep Hall / 1pm / Year 3 Parents
31st TUE		<b>School House Teatime Concert</b> Music Department / 4:30pm / Parents welcome
		<b>School House Dinner Party</b> Beale Centre / 6:30pm / Tutor Group Parents

## February 2023

1st WED		<b>Blundell's Association Fives Masterclass</b> Fives Courts / 6:30pm / Parents welcome
		<b>You're not in this alone' - a discussion evening for parents.</b> Beale Centre / 7pm / Parents
3rd FRI		<b>Learning Showcase Assembly</b> Prep Hall / 8:15am / Parents welcome
8th WED		<b>OB Winter Lunch Speaker:</b> Ian Barnes Beale Centre / 12:30pm / Contact: OB Club
8th WED		<b>Spring Concert: 'Blundell's on the Sea'</b> Senior School / 7pm / Parents welcome
8th WED		<b>OB &amp; Westlake Quiz &amp; Pizza</b> Beale Centre / 7:30pm / OB Club

10th FRI		<b>Pre-Prep Learning Showcase</b> Classrooms / 8:15pm / Pre-Prep parents
20th MON		<b>Blundell's Association Parents' Coffee Morning</b> FOBs Café / 8:30am / Parents welcome
21st TUE		<b>School House Dinner Party</b> Beale Centre / 6:30pm / Tutor Group Parents
23rd THU		<b>Bristol Reception for OB's and Parents</b> Cosy Club / 6pm / OB's & Parents
25th SAT		<b>Parents' Prayer Group</b> Lady Chapel / 8:30am / Parents welcome

## March 2023

4th SAT		<b>The Russell</b> 2pm / Parents welcome
7th TUE		<b>Messy Play morning for children aged 1-4</b> Pre-Prep Hall / 9:30am / Parents welcome
8th WED		<b>OB Winter Lunch: Speaker</b> Rev'd Tim Hunt Beale Centre / 12:30pm / Contact: OB Club
11th SAT		<b>Guest Morning</b> Beale Centre / 8:45am / Prospective parents
17/18th FRI/SAT		<b>Charity Art Exhibition</b> Blundell's House / 8:30am / Parents welcome
22nd WED		<b>Blundell's Association Parent' Fives Masterclass</b> Fives Courts / 6:30pm / Parents welcome
22nd WED		<b>You're not in this alone' a discussion evening for parents</b> Beale Centre / 7pm / Parents welcome
23rd THU		<b>Pre-Prep Celebration Assembly</b> Prep Hall / 8:15am / Parents welcome
24/25th FRI/SAT		<b>OB Sports Weekend</b> Parents welcome
25th SAT		<b>Guest Morning for parents of Yr 5 Prep families.</b> Big School / 9am / Parents welcome
		<b>Old Blundellian Thirty year reunion</b> 5:30pm / Contact: OB Club
27th MON		<b>Prep STEM Showcase Assembly</b> Prep Hall / 8:40am / Parents welcome
29/30th SAT/SUN		<b>School House Play, James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl</b> Ondaatje Hall / 7:30pm / Parents welcome
31st FRI		<b>Prep House Music Assembly</b> Prep Hall / 8:15am / Parents welcome
		<b>Prep Easter Service</b> Chapel / 10am / Parents welcome



# Blundell's

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