



Blundell's



DIARY

DECEMBER 2021



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About an hour ago the pupils departed for their Christmas holidays, and the school is very quiet and calm. The Christmas tree in the clocktower foyer is still looking quite cheerful but it is like the whole building has let out a sigh of contentment at a job well done. We lasted the full length of the term, had a quite brilliant last few days, and everyone has safely headed off for some rest and recovery.

Yesterday we had a magnificent Carol Service at the Cathedral in Exeter and we returned to school for The Gut, our traditional Christmas Dinner. The Gut is not just a dinner, it is everything that comes before and after it too. Usually, preparation for The Gut begins months in advance. Pupils scrub up for the event and boys and girls make an effort to look smart, so for the more conscientious dressers, dresses and suits are ordered months in advance. The post-Gut entertainment is also greatly anticipated, and a great deal of thought and preparation goes into capturing hilarious moments on film.

It is all part of being a member of this wonderful community and yesterday, as I sat in the beautiful Cathedral listening to the choir raising the roof with Christmas Carols, I was again reminded of the tremendous privileges that we enjoy here at Blundell's. We are indeed fortunate, and it is therefore only appropriate that one of the highlights at school this term has been the emerging prominence of the Charity Committee and of charitable activities in the community. From working in the gardens of the local Hospiscare to working on site

at Will's Woodlands, to serving breakfast in the local community, and raising funds for orphans supported by the Bhambayi Project in South Africa, pupils have gone to impressive lengths to get their hands dirty to make a contribution. The Christmas Fair alone raised hundreds of pounds by selling crafts and trinkets produced by pupils.

Our sports teams have enjoyed great success this term with the senior girls in particular flying the flag for sport at Blundell's. We were disappointed for them that they lost on penalty flicks in the quarter final of the national cup competition, but besides that they only lost one other match. The U14 boys were the stars of the rugby season and between the A, B and C teams they played 29 matches and won 29 matches scoring 1,343 points for and conceding just 278. What was especially impressive is that regardless of the score line they always treated the opposition with absolute dignity and respect, with an absence of any arrogance or superiority. Well done to those boys!

Make no mistake, we have had our moments where the spectre of Covid has loomed large and we have not been unaffected, but we have made it through, and I am immensely grateful to my colleagues for the remarkable resilience, positivity and energy they continue to muster in the most challenging of circumstances. Chapeau to them all.

Mr Bart Wielenga
Head

Academic

Arkwright Engineering Scholarship

Congratulations to Oscar and Archie (Year 12) for winning a prestigious Arkwright Scholarship. The Arkwright Engineering scholarships are awards which are challenging to attain. To secure a scholarship pupils will have shown a high level of scientific, mathematical and design ability. They will now be linked with an Engineering firm who will help and support them in their studies both at A level and university. Oscar is being sponsored by South West Water, and will be working on projects relating to infrastructure, environmental and civil engineering. Archie is sponsored by The Worshipful Company of Fuellers in the world of energy production and sustainable engineering. From thousands of applicants only 400 pupils are successful each year, therefore, they have both proven themselves to have fantastic engineering potential for the future.



Senior Maths Challenge

57 of our very best maths students from Years 9-13 sat the senior Maths challenge on Thursday 18th November. This is high level maths, generally aimed at challenging A Level maths students. This year we were very successful with 7 gold awards, 6 silver awards and 16 bronze awards. The top performing students were Edward (Year 9) and James (Year 12), who not only secured gold awards, but also qualified



Modern Foreign Languages

The MFL department celebrated the European day of Languages with a garden café where they sold an array of delicious croissants, pains au chocolat, hot chocolate and smoothies. Years 7 and 8 did a challenging language quiz at tutor time and the winners got a French pastry. Year 7 had a lot of fun with the Language Treasure Hunt in October, running around, finding clues and being quizzed on the French/Spanish/German culture. To celebrate the festivities, our Year 7 recorded a French Christmas song which was sent to their French penpals. Year 9 wrote about their plans for the Christmas holiday in French and the Year 10 video called with their French penpals to talk about Christmas traditions. Our Year 7 have been writing their own French story in a mini-book, while Year 8 wrote a paragraph on what they will do for Christmas which they will send to their French penpals. The Year 9 German class performed a Nativity play. The boarders in SH have been helping to decorate the display with French Christmas themes. Finally, our Year 9 were taken on a virtual journey to France with an exciting Escape Game. Joyeux Noël a tous!

- Mrs Munday



for the British Maths Olympiad Round 1. The other gold awards went to Shirley, Jane, Harry, Rainer and Louis (all Year 12) – these pupils all qualify for the Senior Kangaroo Paper. Overall, we are very proud of the achievements of all our pupils in the Maths department, applying their maths skills and knowledge to solve lots of challenging problems.



Bletchley Park and The National Museum of Computing

At the end of November, 24 students and 3 staff visited Bletchley Park and then moved next door to The National Museum of Computing. At Bletchley, students had a workshop to understand the Lorenz code (the successor to Enigma) and how modulo 2 arithmetic was used as part of the process to crack it. Following a tour of the exhibits there was a guided tour of the outside of Bletchley where the students tried to understand what life would have been like for someone sent to Bletchley under the utmost secrecy, unable to even talk to people working in the room next door about what they were doing.

For the second part of the trip students moved to The National Museum of Computing. Here the students saw working reconstructions of Alan Turing's Bombe (as featured in the Imitation Game), Heath Robinson and Tommy Flowers' Colossus (the world's first electronic computer). Following on from this link with Bletchley, the students saw operating computers from the 1950s all the way through to modern systems and they got to enjoy playing some retro games on computers from the 1980s and 90s. The trip was rounded off with a workshop where the students explored Alan Turing's 'Turing Test', the ability of a machine to behave in a way indistinguishable from that of a human. Students used modern computers to chat with an unseen respondent, either someone else in the room or a computer. At the end of the conversation, they had to decide if they were talking to a computer or to someone pretending to be a computer. Finally, they had the chance to try to improve the 'Chat Bot' by giving it a larger repertoire.

A great day combining the code breaking efforts of WWII, which saw the birth of electronic computer systems, all the way through to modern artificial intelligence. The staff would like to thank the students for being such great ambassadors for Blundell's.

Mr Dyer

Inter-House Public Speaking Competitions

Senior – Huge congratulations must go to Gorton House who won the Senior Inter-House Public Speaking Competition. Sophia (Year 11) spoke with great passion and exuberance on the subject: Why we should all be a feminist. Grace (Year 12) and Scarlet (Year 11), Chair and Questioner respectively must also be congratulated for their important role in GH's success. Gorton House just managed to win against a very strong Old House team who spoke with confidence and poise about the many complexities involved in eradicating world poverty.

Individual awards were as follows:

Prize for Best Speaker - Sophia (Year 11)

Prize for Best Chair - Emily (Year 13)

Prize for Best Questioner - Scarlet (Year 11)

All the teams impressed the judges with their considered and thoughtful arguments on a very diverse range of subjects. Questions posed by opposing teams were very challenging and the role of Chair was delivered with gravitas. Well done to everyone involved. My thanks must also go to the judges: Ms Youngs, Ms Poles and Mr Wolverson for their time and for providing such detailed feedback on all teams.

Junior – In November, Old House were crowned winners of the Junior Inter-House Public Speaking Competition. Henry (Year 9) spoke very persuasively about why extinct species should not be brought back from the dead. Nico (Year 10) and Jack (Year 11) also performed brilliantly in the roles of Chair and Questioner, respectively.

Individual awards were as follows:

Best Speaker – Mathilda (Year 9)

Best Chair – Nico (Year 10)

Best Questioner - Nicholas (Year 9)

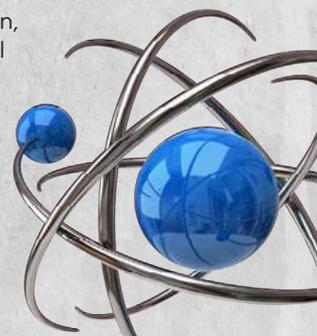
Well done to everyone involved in this competition. All the competitors spoke with great poise and confidence. Speeches were very well-researched and stimulating. Thanks must also go to the judges: Ms Core-Lloyd and Mrs Hadley for their time and for providing such detailed feedback on all the teams.

Mrs Worthington



British Astronomy and Astrophysics

In November 8 students took part in the BAAO Junior Challenge. The challenge is based on an assortment of questions from the history of astronomy, the Solar System, the Moon, observational techniques, star patterns, and general astronomical knowledge. Some questions are done by a process of elimination, some are general knowledge and not likely to be covered in lessons, and some are from the school curriculum. They all received fantastic results including one gold, five silver and two bronze awards. Congratulations to all, but special mention to Rafael (Year 11) who achieved the gold. - Mrs Webster



Poetry Workshop

On 23rd November, Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed a fantastic poetry workshop from the Never Such Innocence charity. The subject of the workshop was 'Life After Conflict,' in which students focused on a variety of images as inspiration for a whole range of emotions and situations around conflict. Lots of the students found this especially meaningful as they had been involved with Remembrance, so this produced a lot of powerful ideas and themes. Year 7 and 8 students did an amazing job at thinking of an 'anchor' for their poem.

They wrote in an extremely accomplished way and read their poems out to the rest of the group. Clive Sanders, the visiting poet, was very impressed by the quality of writing on display.

Miss Mercer

When home is lost - By Mimi (Year 8)

*A home is meant to be the light, a safe place to live, love and learn,
But what happens when you have to leave home never to return?
When all seems lost and the only option is to run and hide,
When your lost alone with no support and no one by your side?
When people turn on people, and friends begin to fight,
When all is dark and cold and lost, when you cannot see the light?
When all to be heard is the shrieks of those who have bravely died,
When the only people left are drowned in the sorrows that they've cried?
When the still that follows is a bad as the rumbling before,
And when you realise life is changed now and forever more.
Even when we are given back what was always ours,
We know that nothing can be enough to heal the deep scars.
Because the home is gone and it's dark as the night,
No safety, no laughter, no love and no light.*

Enrichment

This term the Sixth Form Enrichment Programme has seen a really exciting line up of external speakers that our pupils have been so lucky to hear from personally. The term kicked off with the New Beginnings Talk from Darren Edwards, an adaptive explorer who talked to Years 11, 12 and 13 about his journey from able-bodied SAS contender to paraplegic. His story was utterly captivating, partly because Darren's story is such an enthralling one, but predominantly due to Darren's method of delivery; his engaging nature, his candid and honest approach and his ability to speak to teenagers without a hint of condescension. Darren's talk focused on the strength of a positive attitude and having perspective, a viewpoint that could be applied to any challenging scenario facing pupils, especially those heading into the onslaught of exams and university applications. It was relatable, emotive and inspiring and we look forward to Darren returning to school to tell us all about the next immense challenge over which he is victorious; 7 marathons in 7 continents!!



The PSHE theme for the second half of the Autumn term was "Relationships" and Year 13 attended a frank and important talk on the matter of consent. The talk was delivered by Amelia Jenkinson from The School of Sexuality Education and it explored the nuances of consent, taking it beyond a transactional exchange of words and asking pupils to consider the variety of ways that people can enthusiastically show their consent within an intimate relationship, and also the subtle and less obvious ways in which one can express their discomfort or anxiety. Whilst an incredibly important and serious topic, the talk was perfectly pitched and enabled pupils to discuss and contribute their thoughts and ideas in a safe and supportive environment.

A few weeks later, John Hoskison, ex pro-golfer and author spoke with such humility and heart-breaking honesty about the moment he said "yes" to something which would lead to events with damaging and everlasting ripple effects. John spoke to the Sixth Form in Chapel and it was so quiet that you could have heard a pin drop. Whilst his story started off quite innocently exploring his journey through private school into being a pro-golfer; it took a devastating turn when John described how he accepted a drink after a competition, knowing that he shouldn't, in order to appease his peers. On his short drive home John hit and killed a cyclist which resulted in a period of time in prison, remarkably made shorter by the wife of the man he'd accidentally killed asking for leniency at his trial. Pupils who listened to John's talk were left with the deep impression of the dangers of taking a risk, whether it is drug taking, alcohol abuse or simply speeding in a car. However, it was also a positive confirmation of how the human spirit can adapt to extreme circumstances and how the power of forgiveness is more rewarding than recrimination. - **Mrs Jones**

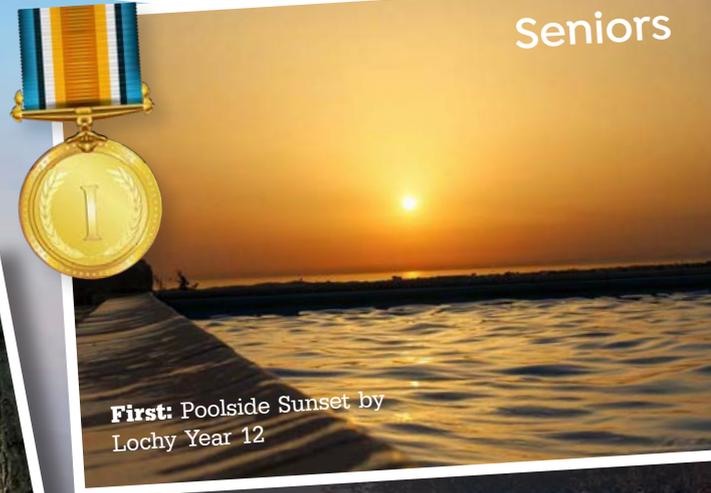


Creative Arts

Travel Photography Competition

The Travel Photography exhibition harvested a healthy crop of visually colourful, rare and exotic photographs from all over the world.

It was a challenge selecting winners from such a nutritious yield.



6th Form Art and Photography Tate Trip

At the beginning of term, all 6th Form Art and Photography students took a trip to Tate Modern. It was a treat seeing historical and contemporary art in its wonderfully open curated environment.

Some students found themselves 'starstruck' by artworks they had studied and finally had the opportunity to experience 'in the flesh'.

Mr Yule



Drama



OUR TOWN

It has been two years since 'A Christmas Carol', the last school play we performed to a live audience. Most of our current Year 13 performers had not even taken their GCSEs and were part of our ghostly chorus! Since then, we have had to cancel planned productions of 'Much Ado About Nothing' and 'Sweeney Todd'. It is fair to say the Drama Department and pupils have sorely missed this vital part of school life and we were very excited to perform in front of an audience once again.

I always try to explain my reasons for choosing the specific play for the senior production each year. This year, I didn't have a particular play in mind, and so set about the task of reading texts that either I had never read, or not read for a very long time. As soon as I was about a quarter of the way through 'Our Town' I knew it was right.

Thornton Wilder's play depicts small-town New England life at the dawn of the 20th century, ending one year before the start of the First World War. It is a classic in America, at one stage being the most performed play in schools and colleges. It is far less familiar to British audiences, although many people know it as the school play that is performed in R. J. Palacio's book 'Wonder'. In this hectic, modern world, this is a play that reminds us to slow down and teaches us to love life, messages which are more apt than ever as we emerge from the tragic events of recent times.

When I closed the play after that first reading, it made me want to make the very short trip from the SH office to the private side and immediately tell the people I love that I love them. In this hectic, modern world, no matter how often you say it, it is never enough. I hope everyone felt the same way after watching the performance.

Mr Rochfort





Speech & Drama

This term students took exams in a range of specialisms and we achieved 100% pass rate. A special mention must be given to Illiana, Beatrice and Mimi (Year 8) for their Grade 3 Devised Drama, Lochy (Year 12) for his Grade 6 Bronze Medal Acting, and Tilly (Year 10) for her Grade 5 Acting; each of whom achieved high Distinctions with an outstanding 90%.

Special Commendation

Each Year the academy that awards the Speech and Drama examinations present various awards of excellence to the students who achieve the highest grades, worldwide, in their specialism. For the academic Year 2020/21 The Myrtle Moss Certificate of Excellence for Grade 6 Acting has been awarded to Ted (Year 13). This is a huge accolade and a true testament to all the hard work and dedication he has brought to the department since joining in the lower sixth and is fully deserving of the award.

A Level Devised

As part of their A level, students are required to create and perform an original piece of theatre in response to a stimulus and take inspiration from two theatre practitioners they have studied as part of their course. The Year 13s took Ella Hickson's political play 'Oil' and, using the explorative strategies of both Bertolt Brecht and Frantic Assembly, produced two extremely contrasting pieces of theatre. 'It's a Man's World' was written and developed by Amos, Bea, George, Tom, Ted and Kabir. Their journey through time, from Elizabethan England to the Present day addressed the role of women in society, whilst Eve, Eloise, Cerys, and Luke created 'Blame my Brain'; a gameshow addressing the effects of the teenage brain.

RESULTS

Illiana (Year 8)	Grade 3 Foundation Medal	Devised Drama	<i>Distinction</i>
Beatrice (Year 8)	Grade 3 Foundation Medal	Devised Drama	<i>Distinction</i>
Mimi (Year 8)	Grade 3 Foundation Medal	Devised Drama	<i>Distinction</i>
Desmond (Year 8)	Grade 4	Public Speaking	<i>Merit</i>
Matilda (Year 10)	Grade 5	Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Cecily (Year 10)	Grade 5	Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Mandy (Year 10)	Grade 6	Reading for Performance	<i>Merit</i>
Lochy (Year 12)	Grade 6	Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Louis (Year 12)	Grade 6	Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Evie (Year 12)	Grade 6	Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Ottile (Year 11)	Grade 6	Duo Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Scarlet (Year 11)	Grade 6	Duo Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Artem (Year 11)	Grade 6	Spoken English	<i>Merit</i>
Jack (Year 11)	Grade 6	Spoken English	<i>Pass</i>
Patrick (Year 11)	Grade 6	Spoken English	<i>Distinction</i>
Ash (Year 12)	Grade 6	Speech & Drama	<i>Distinction</i>
David (Year 13)	Grade 7	Spoken English	<i>Merit</i>
Sophia (Year 12)	Grade 7	Devised Drama	<i>Distinction</i>
James (Year 13)	Grade 7	Speech & Drama	<i>Distinction</i>



Music

TAKE A SEAT CONCERT Carnival of the Animals and Vlatava

In October, our advanced Music Scholars performed Carnival of the Animals by Saint-Saëns with exceptional poise and maturity.

The nine pupil soloists were outstanding in their skill and dexterity, first performing for the Prep School in the afternoon before the evening concert to an adult audience. They were then joined by the full orchestra in Smatena's iconic Vlatava which was a suitably rousing and expertly played piece. It was an absolute joy to witness and a reminder of just how impressive our school music is.

The impressive results come as a consequence of extremely hard work and the pupils involved have put in many long hours after activities and sports practices. Their dedication and commitment to music-making of the highest quality is truly something that should inspire us all.

The concert can be enjoyed again on our [videos page](#).



House Music Competition

The House Music Competition is arguably the best student-led evening in the annual calendar. This year, after the cancellation last year due to Coronavirus, the occasion did not disappoint and whilst the calibre of musicianship often varies considerably from one item to another, there were plenty of exceptional performances on offer as well as other things besides the music that were impressive and affirming. Although the 'House Shouts' remain traditionally, even stoically, more about the volume than the pitch, there were many smaller ensembles and groups who performed at the highest level. It was a great deal of fun and it was amazing how supportive the pupils were of each other. Every item, regardless of the quality, was warmly and enthusiastically applauded and new stars came to the fore and were embraced with encouragement and reassurance.

House Music always draws out musicians who do not feature in more formal musical events but who love their music, but normally only perform in private. Seeing them take those first brave steps onto the stage is very moving and when you notice how other, more confident and experienced musicians make a space for the newcomers in the spotlight, you recognise the thoughtfulness and generosity of spirit that requires and that our pupils possess in abundance.

Evensong

It was wonderful to welcome a full chapel of pupils and parents into our Chapel in October for Evensong featuring our Chapel Choir alongside Exeter University Chapel Choir. Blundell's Chapel Choir is a new ensemble made of pupils from Years 3-13. Our Chamber Choir already has a reputation as one of the finest groups of young singers in the Southwest, performing a wide range of music from the Anglican and Continental choral traditions. The Chapel Choir broadens the group to include Choristers from the Prep School. We hope to host Evensongs in each term. For more information of choral services or dates to keep an eye on, [please click here](#).

Full Colours in Music

Year 13 is an exceptionally musically gifted year-group. Through hard work and dedication, they have become true leaders in the musical life of the school. This term we were delighted to see three of them attain their Full Colours for Instrumental and Choral Music.

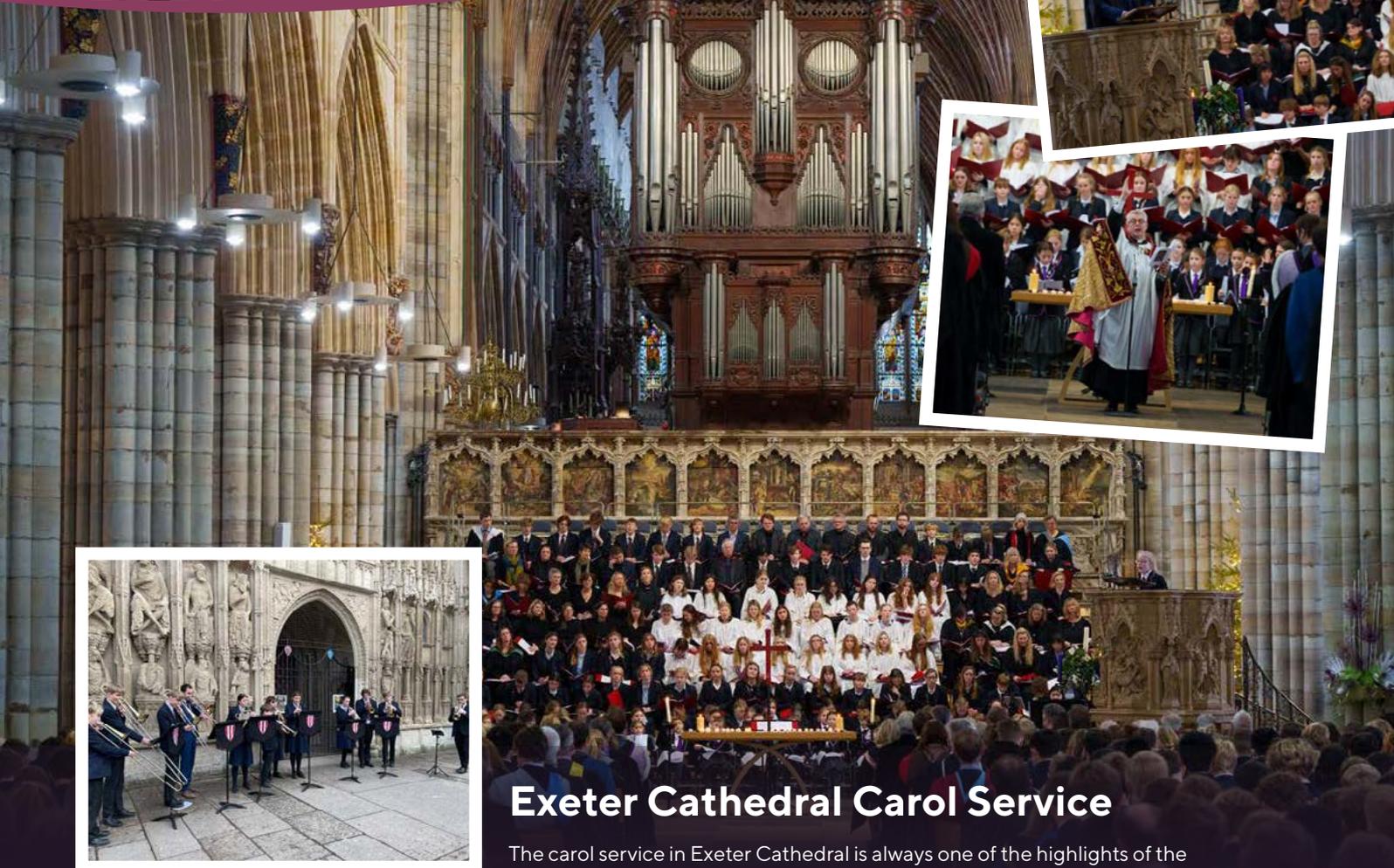


Freya has taken a hugely active role in Instrumental and Choral music making at Blundell's School since her arrival as a Music Scholar in Year 7, holding three Grade 8s with distinction. It was no surprise that this term she was offered a choral scholarship by Worcester College, Oxford. Freya is also a truly delightful person and a fine ambassador to all musicians. She is thoroughly

dependable and enthusiastic in rehearsals, passionate and self-assured and committed to everything she undertakes, whether that be music in the community or internally in school.

Cosima has an expressive playing in her music that can enrapture every audience member that hears her. Cosi has approached her cello with emotional integrity ever since she joined us as a Music Scholar in Year 7, showing her talent at a young age as she won the School House Cup for Musical Performance in Year 8. Cosi has also developed an incredible singing voice, and those who heard her in the summer concert will remember a spine-tingling vocal duet of remarkable intensity.

Hebe joined us in Year 9 as a Music Scholar and immediately threw herself into every musical opportunity available. She sings in all the choirs and is a key member of all our ensembles, both choral and instrumental. Hebe's dedication to music is particularly impressive given how busy she is in other areas of the school. Hebe's passion and commitment to music will no doubt stay with her when she pursues a medical career after Blundell's and in the meantime, we look forward to being the beneficiaries of some outstanding musical performances in the months to come.



Exeter Cathedral Carol Service

The carol service in Exeter Cathedral is always one of the highlights of the school calendar and this year certainly did not disappoint. After the service opened with the iconic solo first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City', a choir of over 120 pupils sang a mixture of contemporary and traditional carols, and it was a joy to present some wonderful works by some unsung female composers. There was music to fit all tastes, from the rhythmic energy in 'Good Will to Men' by Tabakova, to the ethereal and majestic music of 'Stars' by Esenvalds and an arrangement of the popular carol 'Ding Dong Merrily on High'. The combined choirs featured pupils including choristers as young as Year 3, all the way through to our leavers in Year 13, as well as a number of staff and parents too. As with tradition, the congregation contributed to the concluding moments, with the service ending with the famous full carol 'Hark the Herald', bolstered by a brass ensemble of pupils and a soaring descant. It was a fantastic effort by all the pupils' involved and I congratulate them all for such a memorable occasion.

Sports

Kayak Racing Squad

The Kayak Racing Squad very quickly gelled into a tight team, ably led by Captains Liliana (Year 13) and James (Year 13) and benefiting from the irrepressible enthusiasm from our Year 11 starters. The Gloucester Canoe Club Haslar came early for the new paddlers, after just three sessions on the water but it is always a great introduction to the world of club racing, with Blundell's wearing Exeter Canoe Club colours. The focus of the term is always the National Schools, this time on Hawley Lake, which happens before the Southwest Schools Championships. With an overwhelming feeling of relief and happiness at being back together racing against our old rivals the crews did superbly well. Paddling technique is just one element of the squads training, taught off the water on specific paddling machines, or on the Tiverton Canal and Exeter Shipping Canal. Paddlers also benefit from lessons in boat maintenance, kit organisation, nutrition and hydration, injury prevention and management, and race tactics, taking place in the classroom and on the yard. Fitness is key, with twice weekly sessions concentrating on stamina, aerobic sessions, flexibility and stretch. We look forward to the Devises to Westminster campaign kicking off in February with the Waterside and Thameside "warm up" races.

Mrs Taylor-Ross



National Schools Equestrian Association

We have 27 riders that compete regularly over the year at Show Jumping and Arena Eventing competitions held at Bicton Arena, East Devon, Kings Sedgmoor and Pontispool in Somerset. The riders compete as teams and individuals and between them have qualified at heights ranging from 70cm to 1.10m for Championships held at the prestigious Hickstead grounds in Sussex, Keysoe in Bedfordshire and Dorset. They have all enjoyed the camaraderie and competitiveness that these competitions give them.

Some notable achievements over a difficult year with Covid restrictions at times limiting the number of events open to us, Ruby 5th Individually and Team 8th with Evie and Scarlett at the Hickstead 80cm Eventing National Championships and the team of Lucy, Jess and Ruby 9th at a very competitive Championships over the half term at Keysoe. Mattie came 2nd at 1.10m Show jumping, qualifying for Nationals and the Team of Lara, Hattie and Molly coming 1st at the 1m Show jumping, also qualifying for Championships.

Mrs Charlesworth





Girls Hockey

The Girls Hockey Club has enjoyed their most successful ever season in the National Cup Competitions. Our U11's reached the final of the IAPS National Tournament placing them 2nd in the country which is quite a remarkable achievement. Our U13's have been crowned Devon Champions and now go on to represent Devon at the West of England Championships on Tuesday 15th March. The U14's won their Devon Championship and represented Devon at the West of England Championships earlier this term placing 2nd which considering the strength of competition in the region is quite outstanding. Despite losing 8-4 to Millfield School in Round 1, the U16's have secured convincing wins against Queen's College (14-0) and Canford School (3-0) to reach Round 4 of the National Schools plate where they welcome RGS Worcester on Wednesday 8th December. The U18's have yet to lose a match and have secured wins against Exeter (4-0), Taunton (2-1) and Dautseys (3-0) to reach the Quarter Finals of the National Cup where they travel to Princethorpe College also on Wednesday 8th December.

The girls have shown tremendous commitment over the term to overcome obvious adversities and maximise their potential at all age groups.

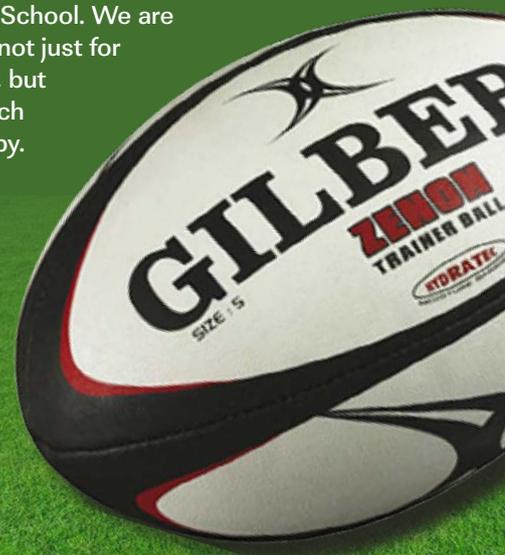
Mr Mead



U14 Rugby

For the first time in many years, we were able to field three U14 rugby teams. Between them they played 29 matches and won all 29 of them. In total they scored 1,343 points and conceded just 278. Along the way they had excellent wins against local rivals King's College and Taunton School as well as schools further afield like Kingswood, Canford and Cheltenham. The team has been captained by Nicholas who joined the school this term from Sweden and the top try scorer was Tom who also started this term and joined us from Exeter School. We are very proud of these boys, not just for their outstanding success, but also for the manner in which they have played their rugby. Regardless of the score, the boys always treated the opposition with dignity and respect and ensured that our opposition always left with their heads held high. That is the way we want to play our rugby at Blundell's.

Mr Lewis



Co-Curricular

Field Day

Autumn Field Day saw the whole school conducting a variety of activities across four counties. Skateboarding and mountain biking in Cornwall, hiking, weaselling, climbing, high obstacles, art projects at Rosemoor, a charity project at Will's Wood, Oxbridge candidate training, sports scholarships and UCAS in Devon, canoeing, archery, leadership and team building in Somerset and finally music in London. After the past year it was great to see the whole school out challenging themselves in a variety of environment's, learning new skills. More importantly having fun outdoors developing social skills and cementing friendships.

Mr Dawe



Clay Pigeon Shooting Club

Blundell's has been without a clay pigeon shooting club for quite some time, so it was really pleasing that we have managed to start a club in 2021. The inaugural event was a competition hosted by Millfield, where without any practice we managed to end up mid table and with Teddy (Year 12) finishing 2nd overall individually. This was followed swiftly by two training sessions at Lings Shooting Ground with an eye on competitions in 2022. We have enough interest in the club that it is now going to run every Wednesday in place of a games session in the winter so we are able to use the light and hopefully run through the summer months as well. For a school so ensconced in the countryside and so closely linked to many aspects of country life, it seems only natural to have a shooting club to be able to engage the pupils in activities they are already experienced in from home. We very much look forward to taking the shooting club forward and to establishing it as a regular activity at Blundell's and shooting all over the Southwest.

Mr Hayward



William's Cup

At the beginning of term the Year 9s embarked on the Williams Cup at Wimbleball Lake. The Williams Cup is an inter-house competition where the students complete a variety of challenges, from a tutor group challenge to night orienteering, with lots of outdoor activities thrown in, which are all scored. Blundellians are naturally competitive, and they all rose to the challenge and by doing so their individual identities merge into a collective House identity, the main reason why the weekend takes place. Students developed a sense of unity all working together for their House, whilst having a great deal of fun along the way. The weather was kind and the night was long but they should all be congratulated for their adventurous spirit throughout. Well done to Year 9 who were all a credit to their Houses.

Mr Dawe



Remembrance Day

The crisp sunny day that blessed our act of Remembrance this year could be taken as a metaphor for the clarity of the message that rings loud and clear each year: we do not celebrate the "glory of war" for it is a tragedy, but we do celebrate the lives of Blundellians given in acts of courage, service and duty, lives given to preserve our freedom and the relative peace we enjoy in our country today. We reflect, too, on the failure of human beings to resolve conflict, in whatever shape or form, around the world, praying that somehow we will learn to find a better way, a way of peace. In all these things our service gave us ever that pause for thought. With many thanks to our visiting preacher, the Right Reverend Nick McKinnel who delivered a sermon which spoke to all.

The Rev'd Hunt



Community



Charity Committee

The charity committee has agreed on four charities to support this year: Little Hero, CHAT, The Bhambayi Project and Tiverton Hospiscare. We hope to support charities through creating awareness of their work, playing an active role where we can, and fund raising. The idea that being involved in charity is as much about meaningful thought and action as it is about financial giving was shared in assemblies early in the term. So far, the pupils have made two trips to the Little Hero site 'Will's Woods' to help with gardening and groundwork for a cabin retreat for children undergoing cancer treatment. We were also able to make a financial contribution of over £1,000 to this project raised from Home Clothes Day and a Film Night.

In support of orphans and vulnerable children in the Bhambayi Project in South Africa, each tutor group wrote a Christmas message to a named child within that project. This too has been followed up with a financial gift of over £1,000 from our 'Virtual Shoebox Appeal' where pupils generously donated money towards essential items for these named children. A chapel service and Harvest collection has been made in support of CHAT and money for all our charities has been raised through a much-enjoyed wine tasting evening (for parents) hosted by The Jolly Vintner, the sale of Christmas wreaths and other Christmas crafts made by our pupils, and clothes recycling. It has been a busy term of learning about these charities during chapel and tutor time and enjoying the privilege of participation. Blundellian's have proved themselves to be generous in numerous ways.



Mid Devon Messenger volunteering

After school, a group of 9 students take part in a volunteering activity for Mid Devon Messenger; a local talking newspaper, and we create audio content that is accessible for blind and visually impaired people. Our content includes poetry, short stories, recipes, quizzes, as well as local history. We have had visits from the committee members of Mid Devon Messenger who have shared their knowledge and expertise with us so that we can really improve the quality of our content.

We recently enjoyed an enlightening visit from Mr Rod Sparkes, the Lead Technician for the charity, who taught us about sound quality and simple ways in which we can improve how we record in order to get the best possible outcome. With the help of the IT technicians, we managed to install the app, 'Audacity' on some of the computers in Popham, as suggested by Mr Sparkes, which is a great software for audio editing and we hope to improve our content through using it. We have also enjoyed visits from Rose Chanin, a member of the charity along with Listener's Representative, Carol Brown and guide dog, Nellie where they shared their insights as well as how pupils will help the charity with their involvement.

It has been a very rewarding experience so far and we look forward to bettering our content as we go on and continuing to listen to feedback from members of the charity as well as what the listeners have to say! We have all really enjoyed working with this Tiverton based charity and getting to know some members of our wider local community.

Betul (MDM activity volunteer)



Autumn Term Garden Open Day

The autumn sunshine helped ensure the Open Day was another successful event in the Blundell's Garden. Year 1 started the activities with snail races and using Playdough to make models of insects and items they found in the garden. This was followed by a visit from NHS Staff at Clare House Surgery. After lunch we hosted the Head Boy and Girl along with some of the Ambassadors from Tiverton High School. They met with our Heads of School and some Year 11 pupils to discuss ways in which we could work together in the future. The meeting which was fuelled with ice creams was incredibly positive and will I am sure lead to some exciting joint ventures in the future. At the end of the day Year 7 and 8 parents were welcomed to the Garden, shown around by the Friday Garden Club members before enjoying the refreshments on offer.

The Garden Café was open and run throughout the day by volunteers and members of the newly formed Community Action Team. Smoothies, hot chocolate, tray bakes and lollies were enjoyed by the whole school community. At lunch time there were two delicious soups available made completely from ingredients grown in the garden, they were parsnip and lavender and butternut squash and thyme soup.

This term's Open Day saw a very competitive apple bobbing challenge and the first Inter House Scarecrow competition. An excellent late arrival from North Close and a brilliant 'entry level' scarecrow from Francis House joined a realistic Blundell's blazer wearing, pizza holding scarecrow from Petergate. In the end the judges went with Old House in third place with a well-engineered pumpkin construction, and Harry Potter's Dobby complete with sock from Gorton House in second.

The winners were School House with a brilliant "Where's that pesky mole?!" theme which caused most people on the day to think a Year 7 pupil had been half buried in the garden.

The day ended with a visit to Tiverton Town Hall for the annual presentation evening for the Tiverton in Bloom Awards (part of the South West, Britain in Bloom Awards). As a town, Tiverton won a Gold Award, and our pupils won a cup for the best School Garden and an RHS Level 5 Outstanding certificate for the Blundell's Garden.

My thanks must go to everyone involved in ensuring the day ran so smoothly, the amazing Catering Team for the Café snacks and amazing soup and all the pupils who volunteered to run the Café throughout the day.

Mr Charlie Olive



Fireside Chats

This term we have had three 'Fireside Chats' at Blundell House where staff and pupils (Years 9-13) have enjoyed thought provoking discussions with our guests. Dr Ben Howitt shared interesting insights into his work for the World Veterinary Service and his charity 'Pananimalia', based in the Galapagos Islands. Melissa and John Nicholson introduced us to the concept of Colour Theory and how this has shaped their clothing business, 'Kettlewell Colours'. We learned a lot about what makes a business tick and the Nicholson's passion for happy customers is clearly one of their ingredients for success. Sasha Romanovitch, CEO of Fair4All Finance, encouraged us to think about investment in a society that will sustain us all, and about the importance of fair access to financial services for people in financially vulnerable circumstances. These Fireside Chats were well attended by pupils whose contributions added to the depth and variety with the discussions. We thank our guests for the generous gift of their precious time.

Mrs Wielenga



Behind the Scenes

We're Ollie and Conor, otherwise known as OLCO Studios. We first met at Blundell's around 15 years ago and have since gone on to form our own film production business. It all stems back from a friendship formed in Petergate many years ago! Since then we've been fortunate enough to have travelled to different countries around the world, working with companies such as Sony, Maserati and the BBC. Blundell's has a very special place in both of our hearts and having been asked if we would make a film for the school we jumped at the chance!

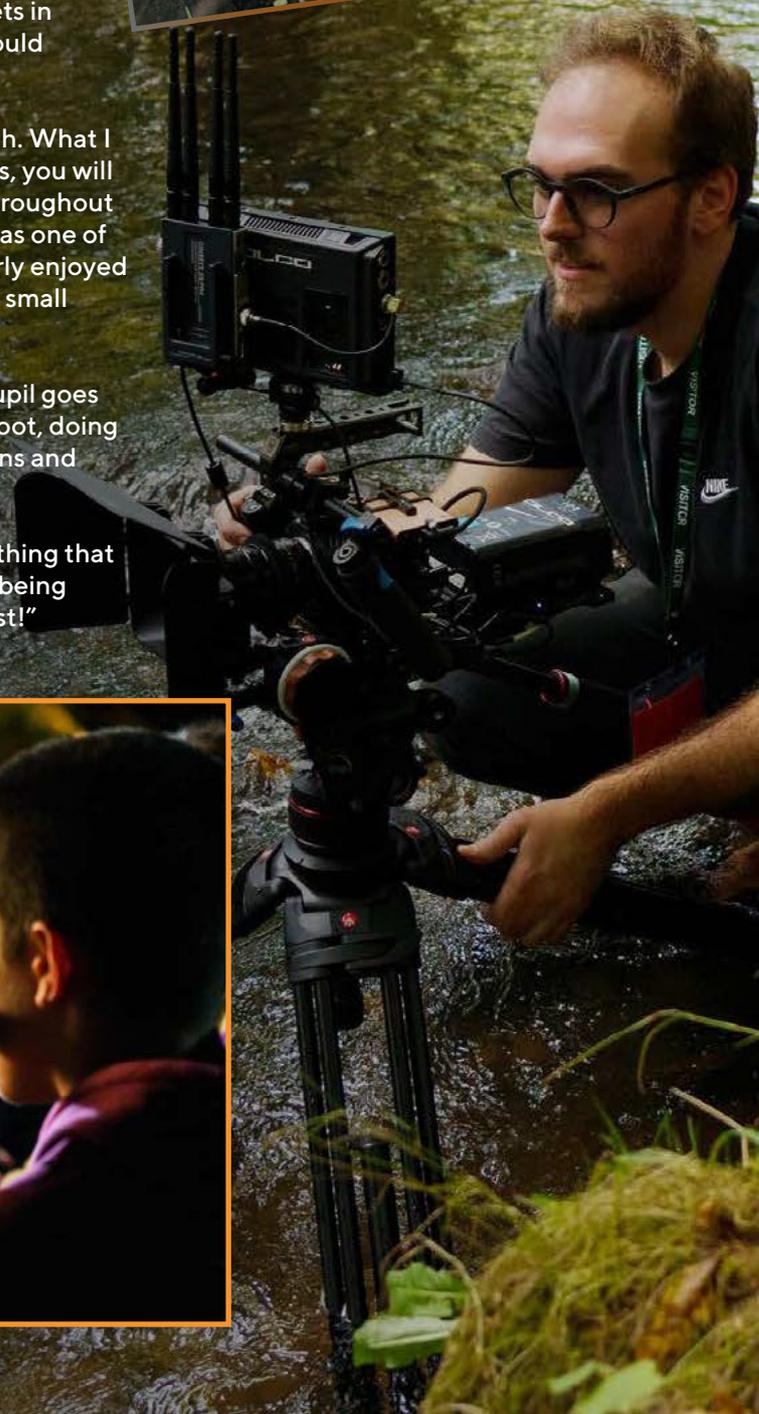
The project came with a lot of pressure. We were tasked with producing a 2-minute film as well as a TV advert. The school is a huge part of our lives and we felt that we needed to do it justice!

Conor: "Blundell's did so much for me personally when I went through a hard time in my family life and I will be forever grateful to the school and its amazing teachers who helped me so much. I even once got in trouble for boarding an extra night...I mean who gets in trouble for staying at school too much?! I can honestly say I would not be where I am, nor the person I am without Blundell's."

Ollie: "This film draws on the experiences that we went through. What I loved about my time here is that no matter what your passion is, you will be supported and this is something that we've tried to show throughout the film. The main purpose of this project is to show Blundell's as one of the very best schools in the country. One challenge I particularly enjoyed was trying to pull off such an ambitious production with such a small team, it was very rewarding!"

We wanted to produce a film that would show the journey a pupil goes through at Blundell's. We spent many months planning the shoot, doing auditions with pupils, going through archives, scouting locations and talking with staff.

Ollie: "Going back and speaking to our old teachers was something that we both loved. However, calling them by their first names and being allowed in the staff room was something that felt strange at first!"



The production of the film took many long days, sleepless nights and early mornings. But in that time we got to meet some of the incredible behind-the-scenes staff at Blundell's. Whether it be chatting to Karl the porter at night, having Harry the head gardener gather some Autumn leaves for a scene or having the maintenance team set up a fire, every single person went above and beyond to help us.

One of the biggest challenges we faced was setting up a candlelight concert scene with 600 candles! We had a small team of teachers and pupils who unpacked and set up every single candle. This is just one of the many examples where we saw Blundell's at its best...pupils and staff working together to produce something very magical.

This project would not have been possible without the support of Emily and Dylan.

They both worked tirelessly to help in any possible way that they could. Whether it be blowing leaves from a fan in the drama scene, to arranging the whole school for a shot in chapel, their efforts meant that we could pull off some extremely challenging scenes.

It was important to us that we made the filming experience enjoyable for the pupils and we wanted to get to know them and hear their stories. What struck us most was their kindness.

Conor says: "The biggest thing I take away from this project is how amazing the pupils are. Every time we visited they were so friendly, polite and kind. Whether it be holding a door open for us or coming over to have a chat, they did their utmost to make us feel at home. We want to say thank you to them".

The main film will be on the school's website and the TV ad is running over Christmas and New Year's on Sky.

We would really love it if you could give us a follow on social media and let us know what you think of the film! You can find us on most social platforms under the name OLCO Studios and of course, if you'd like to have a look at our other work visit olcostudios.com

Finally, we just want to say a massive thank you to everyone involved in the film. Blundell's gave us the confidence to go out in the world on our own, to start our own business and to travel the world. This video is our way of saying thank you whilst also showing the rest of the world what a special place it is. As the final words in the film say "this is my family and this, is my home".



Blundell's Community



BEST BLUNDELLIAN'S
80 cm - Jemima and Ruby
90 cm - Harry and Jess
BEST OVERALL
1m - Matilda
Best Boy - Harry



Main Sponsors

Knight Frank
New British Design

Major Sponsors

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Western Counties Equine Hospital

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Thorne Farm Racing Ltd
Moorhayes Meat
Hole & Pugsley Solicitors
NJT Plumbing & Heating
London International Horse Show
Jay Photos



One Day Event

The Blundell's One Day Event was once again back up and running this year and what a fantastic turnout it had. This equestrian event is one of the biggest riding events in a competitor's schedule as it covers all three of the major events; dressage, show jumping and cross-country over three different heights (80cm, 90cm and 100cm). The event welcomed over 200 riders over the course on the day. For some this was their first ODE while others it was one of the stepping stones to the upcoming Championships later in the year.

While the One Day Event has been running for many years at Blundell's, it has recently seen a change of venue to the well-known Pontispool Equestrian Centre. The change of venue to a more professional setting at Pontispool reflects the high calibre of riding we see throughout our Blundellian riders, giving them a challenge that will truly test their riding talents.

Blundell's Teams were well represented and won both the 80cm and 90 cm classes, with a Blundellian winning the individual in the 100cm class. Everyone had a wonderful day, albeit with highs and lows for some riders, as is the nature of eventing!

In addition to the support from over 100+ volunteers, we were so grateful to partner with some fantastic businesses to receive sponsorship for the event. A full list of sponsors from the event are listed. It is thanks to these businesses that the day was able to go ahead in such a flawless manner and we hope our community will consider using their services as a first port of call in the future.

Plans are already underway for the next ODE on 25th September 2022, if you would like to know more details as either a rider (school ages) or volunteer for the event, please email, equestrian@blundells.org.



Save the Dates...

OB Club Tea & Coffee Parties

Whilst there is still a desire and appetite, Janet is continuing to host small informal gatherings for the local Blundell's Community. 'The Lost Kitchen' in November was a very popular venue, with a gathering of 14 members including former staff, former parents and OBs. Please let Janet know if you'd like to be added to her contact list.



Old Blundellian Day

Old Blundellian Day will take place on Saturday 18th June 2022 – please 'save the date'. The OB Club hopes this occasion will be an opportunity for celebration, getting together, as well as reflection on the 2 years since OB Day in 2019. Further details will be announced in the Spring of 2022.

Blundell's Endowment Fund

We are delighted to announce that Blundell's has recently established an Endowment Fund, which will allow our Finance team to be more strategic with donor income. The fund is already forecasted to produce £12K per year from interest and means donations and legacy income will go even further. If you have any questions about the Endowment Fund, please speak to Ben Boswell (FH 2000-02), Director of Development.

OB Club AGM went virtual!

The OB Club was delighted to be able to host their AGM in-person once again, in the Beale Centre and for the first time on-line; enabling OB's from around the globe to attend. Full reports of the AGM can be found on the meeting page of the **OB Club website**.



'Reconnection and Development'

is at the heart for this year's Annual Fund. This year, our Boarding Houses are seeking the support of our Annual Fund. Each House has requested an item that will support in-house 'reconnection and development.' While the Houses have an annual budget for pupils, donations to our Annual Fund allow small-scale projects and initiatives to take place outside of the annual budget. Further details about the Annual Fund can be found on our **website**.

Pupils are enjoying the Annual Fund item they received last year, with the Garden table and the Willow Huts at the Prep School being especially popular.



Dan, Will, Rose, Daisy, Rosina, Xanthe, Albert, Luka and Jessica



Community Touch Rugby Tournament – 19th September

The 2nd Annual Blundell's Community Touch Rugby Tournament took place outside the Beale Centre on Sunday 19th September. Two pools of eight teams battled it out on a glorious day to win the coveted trophy. Three teams from the Blundell's Braves touch rugby club took part, with Braves 2 winning the overall trophy. The Westlake House OBs (1989-1996), captained by Ed Palmer (W 1990-95), won the Plate Trophy. Lots of funds were raised for Friends of Blundell's Prep and the **Little Hero Charity**.

[Click for more photos from the day](#)

A huge thanks to local sponsors:

Stags

BlueBox Developments

Dunedin Dental Clinic

St Austell Brewery

The Great British Sports Show

Reichwald Trophy Fives Tournament

"This felt like a re-inauguration of the event after the trials of the COVID years. It was hard to believe that the last one was two years prior in 2019 and that many of the players are so well advanced in their school careers! There was an excellent turnout of 30 players, and we were blessed with lovely weather and much parental support. As usual, Janet Wooff prepared us a delicious lunch at the Beale Centre to start off proceedings. The afternoon was orchestrated by Wayne Enstone and Alexandra Steel (GH 1998-05) with much efficiency and the pairings of OBs with current pupils worked extremely well as evidenced by the closely fought nature of many of the matches. The standard was outstanding and the knock-out stage in pool 1 was 'nail biting!' Much gripping and entertaining Fives was played, and we look forward to next year."

- **Chris Hedley-Dent** (Former Staff)



Winter Lunches Resume!

The OB Club are delighted to see so many members of the Blundell's Community, both old and new, return to their popular Winter Lunches. Charlie Olive (TH 1985-90), Debbie Hosking (Former Staff) and Jeremy Salter (Former Staff) generated a significant turnout, and their talks did not disappoint. No doubt Geoff Edwards (School Catering Manager) is sure to do likewise with his talk in January on 'An Obituary to Lumpy Mash and Spotted Dick! – School Catering Through the Ages.'

These events are open to ALL members of the Blundell's Community, please let Janet know if you would like to be added to her contact list. The full programme is available on the [OB Club website](#).



Announcements



Senna Mollie Boswell

daughter of Ben Boswell
(FH 2000-02) & Director of Development and
Amanda, born in September 2021.



Twins Nora Mary and Gus William Frankpitt

born in September 2021 to Henry Frankpitt
(FH 1999-06) and Hannah Frankpitt.
Grandparents Michael Frankpitt (M 1970-74) &
Alison Frankpitt (Former Staff)
Picture shown with big sister Martha!

OLD BLUNDELLIAN DEATH NOTIFICATIONS

(-.03.21) Donald Herbert Lillicrap (FH 1942-45)

(03.03.21) Raymon Geoffrey Daniel (W 1946-51)

(24.04.21) Graham Russell (FH 1959-64)

(28.04.21) Peter Selley (OH 1977-82)

(28.06.21) Christopher Broadway (SH 1949-53)

(28.06.21) David Allan Somerville Davis (SH 1958-61)

(29.06.21) Major Erik White Leask (P 1942-46)

(02.07.21) Roy Harold Webber (M 1941-45)

(05.07.21) **Jeremy Silvester** (FH 1976-80)

(19.08.21) **Leslie John Stagg** (M 1939-43)

(03.09.21) Mike Comer (Former Staff 1951-64)

(26.10.21) Peter Perrett (SH 1951-55)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

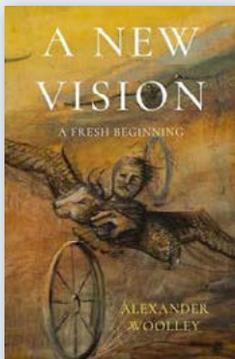
Hugh Whitcomb (P 1944-47)

After National Service in Egypt, I spent my working life in newspaper and television journalism. I've been retired for over 30 years and I'm now 91. Active for many years for the RNLI after spending many weeks sailing off the west coast of Scotland.


Lifeboats



Alexander Hopkinson-Woolley (W 1948-53)



Retired and on the Isle of Wight, my book, 'A New Vision: A Fresh Beginning' has sold hardly more copies than have been distributed free; it is recommended for insomniacs. A supplementary book is being prepared for publication, a summarising paraphrase of the first book. However, it is not intended to be such a good cure for insomnia. It is entitled 'Where is the Evidence? Finding the Truth in the Gospel of John'. This book dismantles too many established

traditions to gain general acceptance. However, I am convinced that the arguments in it are valid and extremely important, if one is properly to understand what we should mean by 'Christianity' and the kingdom we pray for in the Lord's Prayer.

Simon X Benito (FH 1959-63)

In 1967, I graduated as a Chartered Accountant. I worked for multiple large companies all over the world - Price Waterhouse in the Far East; ITT Corporation in Belgium & France; Merck & Co for 25 years in Spain and New Jersey, USA where I have lived since 1980. Since retiring in 1999, I have served on the boards of two biotech companies. We have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Depending on the season, my wife and I spend our time in our homes in New Jersey, North Carolina, Colorado and Florida.



Michael Roch (NC 1951-54)

When my parents informed me that I was going to 'Blundell's School,' where my grandfather had gone, I was quite excited although nervous as I had never heard of Blundell's. The dormitories from memory had about a dozen beds, they would have made particularly good coffins! It was a rule that all windows had to be kept open summer and winter. There was a bowl with a jug on a table in the middle of the dormitory, this was meant for drinking but in the winter, it used to freeze over with all the windows open. Eventually I finished my schooling and completed an apprenticeship at the British Motor Corporation (BMC) in Birmingham. After that, as I have always had a wanderlust I went down to Morocco, Tangier to join the foreign Legion, I thought it would be glamorous, but they were not taking any new conscripts then. So, I spent some time in Tangier, then moved on to Madrid and eventually ended up back in the UK. My father said to me "why don't you go to Australia my boy" I will pay a 10 Stg. for the fare. As it was the furthest place I could think of, I thought it was a good idea, especially as I would have a 5-week cruise thrown in! I spent most of my life here as a commercial pilot and as a flight instructor which I enjoyed and managed to survive, despite the efforts of some students to end my existence! It has been a good life with its ups and downs, but one thing I am very grateful to Blundell's for, was the very strict discipline we had in those days in the 50s. It helped me survive as a young adult across the globe on my own. I am now a Justice of the Peace for Queensland and live on the 'Sunshine Coast', 70 miles north of Brisbane, a lovely area. People in the UK don't realise how big this country is, England would fit in to my state of QLD 7 times!!

I cannot think of how many moves I have made in my life, hopefully my next move will be in a box! There is more to Michael Roch's story and you can [read more here](#).



Christopher Brown (P 1951-55)

After a very satisfying career working as a Marketing Adviser to small firms, I spent another fun 10 years running a B&B with my wife, Margo. Now fully 'retired' at 84, the garden, pottering around and oil painting, keeping abreast of social and political matters, and my children's and grandchildren's active lives in the media are my chief pleasures. I am limited by mobility, so tend to stay fairly tethered to my home environment. My last overseas holiday was two years ago, when I discovered walking to the sea on sticks was not a bundle of fun.

Stuart Welford (M 1954-59)

After a typical school, academic and sports career, I left Milestone in 1969. Much of my latter school holidays were spent learning to Fly, as I had won a Flying Scholarship. At the end of September, my 5-year Apprenticeship began with Saunders-Roe (later known as British Hovercraft.) I became the Residential Hall Chairman in my 4th year at Loughborough College and married my wife Ann in 1964. We had three children and I then joined the RNLI. We moved to Poole and the family, and I enjoyed sailing, including once across to the Channel Isles. My boys are all grown up now; Joannah our eldest is brilliant on Computers, Tim spent 16 years with the Royal Marines and Nick is now a Housemaster at Bryanston (where I won my Cross-Country Colours!)

Max Hanna (FH 1958-62)

After leaving Blundell's in 1962, I studied History and Economics at Sydney University. In 1967, I returned to England and worked for one of the oldest British advertising agencies. From 1970 to 1975, I worked as a Market Research Executive and while in post I wrote 12 sociological monographs, which helped me get a job with the English Tourist Board. Over the next 26 years I wrote many reports, books and articles. I spent 2 years writing English Cathedrals and Tourism, which was the subject of a debate in the House of Lords in 1980. At the prompting of the Archbishop of Canterbury I then spent another 2 years writing English Churches and Visitors. In 1978 I wrote 'Preservation Pays', this book was described by Simon Jenkins in the Guardian as being seminal. My publications have generated over 2,000 press cuttings, including over 100 in The Times, and been quoted in over 400 books and reports. I have spent my retirement in the delightful stone town of Oundle in Northants, where my hobbies have included ballroom dancing, bowling and gardening. When I moved here Ted Crowe informed me that another OB lived in Oundle, namely Jeremy Firth (NC 1950-55). He had been a teacher at Oundle school, was very good at cricket and had opened the batting for Blundell's with Richard Sharp (W 1952-57).

Barry Leach (NC 1960-64)

During my time at Blundell's, I developed an interest in astronomy. In 1963, when I was becoming a 'seasoned pupil', I started taking my antique telescope to school and was permitted out after the 7pm lock-up onto the field outside North Close, where on cold clear winter nights I searched the sky for various celestial objects. Other boys became interested and by the end of the term I had the notion of forming an astronomical society (see note pictured). I found a backer in Mr. D.J.Park, Housemaster of Petergate at the time, and received the necessary approval. We found a dilapidated telescope in the back of the Vicar's Garden and with the help of Mr. A.B.Camplin, the school caretaker, and a few friends (Wright, Gill, and Holland) we mounted it at the top of the Clock Tower. Mr. Camplin showed us how to shutter and pour some concrete to hold the telescope in place. I later became a civil engineer specialising in reinforced concrete, influenced by this and by watching the building of the new Dining Hall in 1964 - later my firm of structural consultants was involved in the design of many school building projects such as The Beale Centre, St. Aubyns and Milestones. The time spent with the telescope after prep was the best and it did not disappoint. Little scientific work was undertaken but it did raise interest and awareness of the subject at a time when the space race was gathering pace.



Angus James MacDonald (P 1975-80)

After leaving Blundell's in 1980 and reading Archaeology & Classical Civilisation at Manchester University, I moved to Italy in 1990, and still live just outside Milan. I'm married to an Italian, Monica, and have two sons, Gregory & Oliver, now both graduated. I have worked for 30 years in advertising and filmmaking, and specifically in the last 12 years, for the fashion industry. I've produced campaigns and content for Giorgio Armani, Dior, Bulgari, Bottega Veneta, and many others. I am presently in production on an independent documentary film for Netflix, charting the boom years of Italian Fashion. This includes interviewing Giorgio Armani, Valentino, Dolce & Gabbana etc. as well as a host of Hollywood stars, including Samuel L. Jackson, Frances McDormand, Helen Mirren and Sharon Stone. Besides the film work, I have a personal project rooted in History of Art, a passion I developed at Blundell's under the always cheerful and inspiring guidance of Robert Julier in the Art Department. Besides that, I like to keep fit by running, swimming & cycling, and enjoying the benefits of living in Italy - the Italian food!



Jeremy Toyne (P 1975-79)

I left Petergate in December 1980 and went to the US on an ESU scholarship in the hope of being able to learn more about girls i.e. study in a co-educational setting. The ESU board clearly saw me coming and sent me to an all-boys school in Virginia. Following University at Loughborough to study Sport, I spent three years in an African violet tracksuit amongst elite athletes (of which sadly I was not one) which was funded by the military, and I joined 6th Gurkha Rifles in 1984. In the heady days between the Falklands and the first Gulf War, life as a Gurkha Subaltern in Hong Kong was not that serious; it got a little more serious when I was sent to South Armagh.

I left the Army as a 27-year-old Captain (pictured), totally unemployable, and went to London Business School to reinvent myself as a banker. Marriage, three children, dogs and horses ensued and now I run a small fintech business serving the underbanked. We live in East Sussex with our youngest, surrounded by fields, ponies and, currently, builders. Blundell's now looks like a far more civilised and rounded version of the school I attended in the late '70's - not sure I would be allowed in - but Petergate when I revisited pre-pandemic was almost unchanged. Perhaps it's hard to improve on a good thing? We had some truly inspirational masters, and some quite memorable ones as well. If anyone who had the misfortune to be in my cohort works in the Paddington area, I know a great bar.....

Jonathan with Andrew Blackler (OH 1967-71) on left.



Jonathan Palfrey (OH 1967-71)

Left Blundell's in 1971, spent a year in Zambia with my parents, then three years at the University of Warwick. Worked in Zambia, England, Germany, Italy, Sweden, France, and Spain; for the first decade as a programmer, then as a technical writer, documenting computer hardware and software. I've been working for HP near Barcelona since 1997, and married Ana (who is Spanish) in 1997. Our son Marc was born in 2000. My main hobby is photography; I also read sci-fi and fantasy, and play games a bit. I'm no linguist, and still speak Spanish badly; I picked up scraps of various other languages.



Kwabena Asare

(P 1997-00)

A qualified barrister both in UK and Ghana. Following working in London, he is now also a practicing barrister in Ghana. Specialist areas are in Shipping, Admiralty and Oil & Gas Law. Personally involved in farming and tree plantation in the central and eastern regions of Ghana.



Alex Scott (OH 1982-87)

I am a European Correspondent for a US science magazine writing about environmental technologies (my Blundell's chemistry teacher, Dr Mains, would no doubt be surprised by this!) I live in Branton where I volunteer for the Wave Project teaching special needs kids to surf. I have two kids just finishing Uni.



Jack Williams (P 2009-13)

Former Music Scholar and now starting year 3 of his 4-year Jazz Performance degree at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music. Jack has just been appointed Lead Tenor in the Trinity Laban Big Band. Jack was also the recipient of a small Old Blundellian grant and in appreciation of this support has offered to come back and support the current pupils with a masterclass.



Billie Whyte (GH 2004-11)

I studied Motorsport engineering at University and now work at Jaguar Land Rover as a Propulsion System Integration Engineer. I'm a STEM Ambassador and involved with Women in Engineering. I want to help break down barriers for women and girls getting into STEM subjects and Engineering.



Lisa Tregale nee Warren (GH 1991-93)



Recently highlighted by the BBC for her work in Music; Lisa is currently the only female Director in the BBC Orchestras. Lisa's hard work is evident by the growing audience figures, despite the restrictions from the pandemic.



Dom Bess (FH 2010-15)

Congratulations to Dom Bess who has been selected to represent England in the upcoming Ashes series. The Ashes kick off on 8 December 2021 with England vs Australia.



Alice Lamb (NC 2019-21)

Since leaving Blundell's I have been offered a place at Durham University to read Geography. I was keen to take a gap year and decided to defer my year at Durham. Since my decision to defer my Durham place, I was offered a hockey scholarship and academic scholarship to study Geography and play hockey at Central Michigan University in the US. I have really enjoyed the experience of training and playing hockey at such a high level. I have loved travelling to many different States on away fixtures giving a good insight into American culture. Being part of the athletes' programme there is never a dull moment and always something to do. I am particularly looking forward to touring parts of the US in between semesters.



Forthcoming Events

Events in purple: Prep School Events

Events in red: Senior School Events

Events in green: Blundell's Community

 Academic

 Social Event

 Sports

 Coffee Mornings

 Religious Service

 Music

 Public Speaking

 Theatre

January 2022

6th
THU



Blundell's Association Parents Coffee Morning
Beale Centre / 8.30am. Contact: Blundell's Association

9th
SUN



School Service
Chapel / 10.30am / All welcome

10th
MON



BALSA Meeting for Parents
Prep Hall / 5pm / All welcome

11th
TUE



SH Parents' Dinner Party
Beale Centre / 6.30pm / Parents welcome

12th
WED



Toddler Group Commences
Pre-prep / Parents welcome

12th
WED



Winter Lunch Geoff Edwards (Blundell's Catering Manager 2006-present)
Topic: 'An Obituary to Lumpy Mash and Spotted Dick! - School Catering Through the Ages.' Contact: OB Club

13th
THU



Reception Meeting For Parents 'Supporting reading and writing at home'
Pre-Prep Hall / 8.30am / Reception parents

19th
WED



Fives Masterclass with Alex Steele (GH 1998-05)
Fives Court / 6pm to 8pm. Contact: Blundell's Association

24th
MON



Open Morning - for Prospective Parents
Prep / 9.30am / Prospective Parents welcome

25th
TUE



SH Parents' Dinner Party
Beale Centre / 6.30pm / Parents welcome

26th
WED



Pro Corda National Chamber Music Competition
Chapel / All Prep and Senior Parents welcome

28th
FRI



Pre-Prep Coffee Morning
Prep / 8.15am / Parents welcome

February 2022

1st
TUE



School House Teatime Concert
Music Department / 4.30pm / All welcome

4th
FRI



Coffee Morning for Parents
Prep Atrium / 8.15am / Parents welcome

8th TUE		SH Parents' Dinner Party Beale Centre / 6.30pm / Parents welcome
9th WED		Percussion Concert Prep Hall / 5pm / Parents welcome
9th WED		Charity Film Night Lion, Ondaatje Hall / 7pm. Contact: Blundell's Association
9th WED		Winter Lunch - Peter Maunder (M 1978-82) Topic: 'Tiverton Cloth: The story of the town's woollen trade, 1475-1815.' Contact: OB Club.
16th WED		Pre-Prep Tea and Tunes Pre-Prep Hall / 4pm / Parents welcome
16th WED		Spring Concert 'Blundells in Space' Big School / 7pm / Parents welcome
26th SAT		Live Six Nations Rugby Beale Centre. Further details available in the New Year. Contact: OB Club.

March 2022

2nd WED		String Concert Prep Hall / 5pm / Parents welcome
5th SAT		The Russell Senior School / 2pm / All welcome
5th SAT		10 Year Alumni Reunion (Class of 2011 & 2012) Contact: Development Office.
9th WED		Piano Concert Prep Hall / 5pm / Parents welcome
9th WED		Senior Interhouse Debating Ondaatje Hall / 5.30pm / Parents Welcome
9th WED		Winter Lunch - Nigel Hall (Governor 2014-20, Chair of Governors 2020-present) Topic: TBC. Contact: OB Club.
11th FRI		Teatime Concert Years 9-13 Music Department / 4.30pm / Parents Welcome
12th SAT		Year 6 Welcome Afternoon Big School / 1pm / All Welcome
12th SAT		Live Six Nations Rugby Beale Centre. Further details available in the New Year. Contact: OB Club.
15th WED		Junior Interhouse Debating Ondaatje Hall / 5.30pm / Parents Welcome

16th WED		Fives Masterclass with Alex Steele (GH 1998-05) Fives Court / 6pm to 8pm. Contact: Blundell's Association
19th SAT		Live Six Nations Rugby Beale Centre. Further details available in the New Year. Contact: OB Club.
19th SAT		13+ Guest Morning 2023 Entrants Beale Centre / 9am / All Welcome
25th FRI		Rebecca Kirk Lecture - 'Adventure Revolution' Beale Centre / 6.30pm to 8pm. Contact: Blundell's Association
25/26th FRI & SAT		OB Sports Weekend. Old Blundellians vs Pupils, all players for Football, Netball, Hockey, Fives and for the first time Shooting welcome. Contact: OB Club.
26th SAT		Guest Morning for Year 5 Beale Centre / 9am / Blundell's Prep Parents



April 2022

1st FRI		Blundell's Prep School Easter Service Chapel / 10am / Parents Welcome
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June 2022

18th SAT		OB Day Contact: OB Club.
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July 2022

1st FRI		OB Current Parent and Grandparent Speech Day Lunch Contact: OB Club.
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1st FRI		Speech Day
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1st FRI		Leavers Ball
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September 2022

17th SAT		1950's to 1960's Alumni Reunion Contact: Development Office.
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Blundell's

FOUNDED 1604

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