



LEARNING COMMUNITY

LOCKDOWN LEARNING 2.0

SPRING TERM 2021



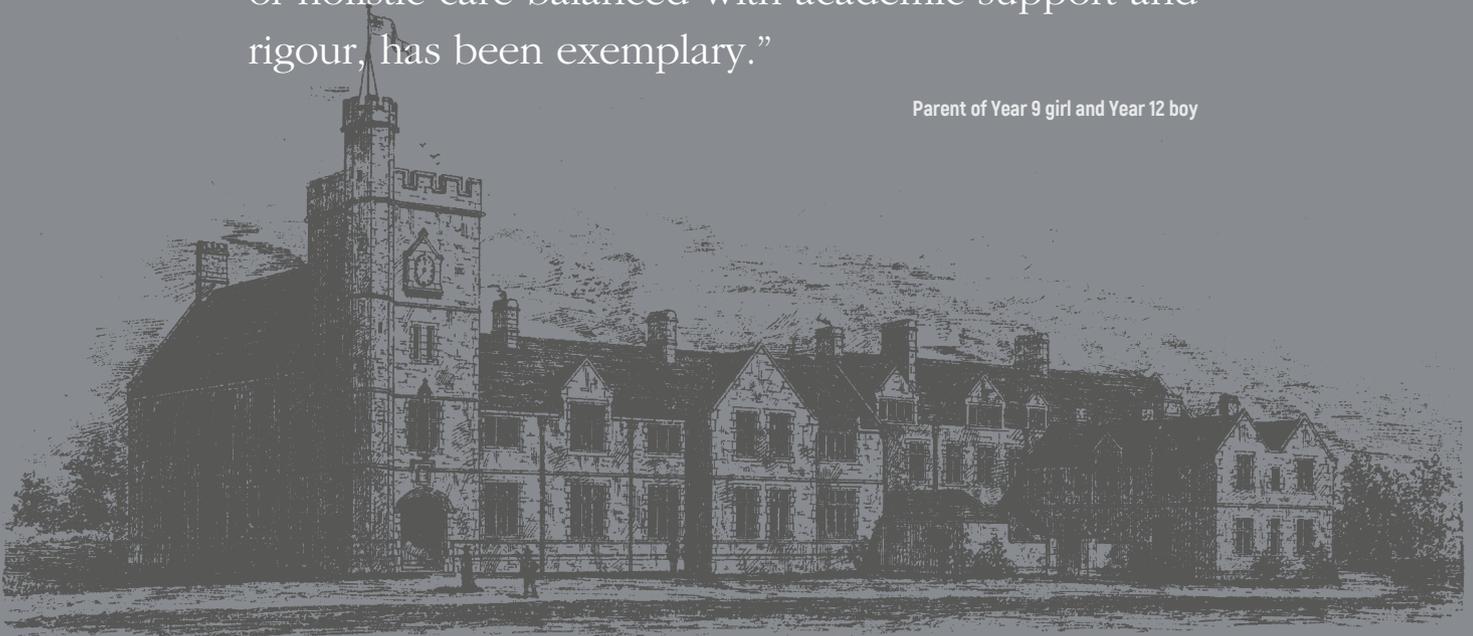
Blundell's

FOUNDED 1604

“It is clear that you and your senior team have put Herculean efforts into the planning, communication and delivery of the Blundell’s response to the shifting sands of the Covid 19 pandemic.

...Really importantly the dedication, delivery and commitment shown by your staff to provide the highest level (rather than just the best possible level) of holistic care balanced with academic support and rigour, has been exemplary.”

Parent of Year 9 girl and Year 12 boy





Blundell's

FOUNDED 1604

This is the second edition of this booklet setting out our Remote Learning Programme. When we first published this, we neither expected nor intended there to be a second version but here we are, and this is it. I believe that we have learnt important lessons from last Summer and we have taken on board the feedback from parents, pupils, and staff and for those reasons I am confident that what we have now is an enhanced version of what worked very successfully for so many pupils during the first lockdown.

I have already challenged pupils to reflect on the last time we found ourselves away from school and I have asked them to apply their own personal lessons to the current situation. We all will have things that we would have liked to have done better and now we have our second chance. I am mindful that there are many things different now including the weather and our own mindsets. I expect that whereas back then there was a novelty factor to it all, we now sense a greater fatigue and impatience with our circumstances.

The reality is that these are dire times and for many citizens, including members of our community, they are also traumatic and we want to do all we can to support our community, to offer stability and leadership and to provide an education that we can all be proud of. Traditionally, Blundellians are a determined and resilient bunch and I know we will again rally together. I hope that the Enrichment and Engagement programme will again be well used by pupils and parents alike.

We know that whatever we do online will not be able to capture the energy and dynamism of being at school, but we fervently believe that the way we are planning to do things gives us the best chance of ensuring both the academic progress and the mental health of our pupils, in a manner that is sustainable and that will teach pupils learning skills for life. In the first episode of lockdown learning, I wrote that our ambition was to help pupils to become good at learning and that our educational philosophy is that pupils can only become good at learning when they are fully engaged in the process. This programme continues to be designed to fulfil that philosophy.

Bart Wielenga
The Head

OVERVIEW:

Home Learning @ Blundell's has two clear and distinct aims:

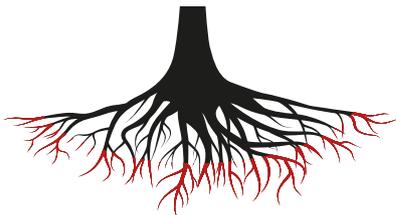
- 1 To provide engaging, accessible remote teaching to enable your child to make ongoing academic progress.
- 2 To provide interaction, enrichment and engagement outside the virtual classroom for the whole Blundell's community.

Accordingly, the curriculum is split into two distinct parts:

- 1 **The Academic Curriculum:** the teaching of the curriculum, in line with the normal academic requirements for each year group.
- 2 **Engagement and Enrichment:** to provide intellectual stimulation, engagement, and interaction with others outside the household, as well as a sense of community and belonging.



LEARNING COMMUNITY



ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

The academic curriculum has been designed to offer bespoke and focused programmes for individual year groups, with tailored support available for those who need it. Pupils will continue to follow their normal syllabuses, and our experience of Lockdown 1.0 shows us that we can expect pupils at all stages of their school career to make excellent academic progress.

ENGAGEMENT AND ENRICHMENT

Supporting the academic curriculum will be a wide variety of programmes and activities, which will provide intellectual stimulation, enjoyment and interaction for pupils, and also the wider Blundell's community. This programme is split into six different areas:

- Academic Enrichment
- Charity
- Community
- Cultural Enrichment
- Sport, Exercise and Wellbeing
- Life Skills and PSHE

SCHOOL ROUTINE

In addition to this extensive curriculum, we will look to maintain the routine of school as much as possible. In particular:

- Latin Prayer will continue each Monday morning, and will be made available online for the whole community.
- On Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings there will be a 'Thought for the Day' led by our chaplain, Rev'd Hunt, followed by a time of prayer.
- Tutor meetings will take place regularly throughout the week, providing pupils with an opportunity to catch-up with their tutor and also their friends in their tutor group. Tutor meetings will also focus on the Engagement and Enrichment programme, with tutors encouraging, supporting and celebrating pupil achievements in these areas.
- Departments will create 'breakout rooms' during the week, where pupils can join together virtually, working on their set academic work while also socialising and maintaining contacts and connections with their friends and peers.

THE LEARNING COMMUNITY 2.0

AN INNOVATIVE AND DIFFERENT SCHOOL TIMETABLE

Drawing on the best of lockdown 1.0, while adding additional support and drawing on the enhanced technology now available, Remote Learning @ Blundell's provides pupils with academic focus, extensive support, and all they need to enable them to make sustained academic progress.

Each year group will receive specifically tailored courses, which incorporate the content and skills they would be learning were they physically in school. Helpdesk sessions for younger year groups, coupled with breakout sessions for social interaction, allow us to make the most of the technology available, while still allowing pupils to work in the way best suited to them.

Through our academic programme, and the structured and appropriate support that sits alongside, pupils will continue to make excellent and sustained academic progress.



ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Providing intellectual stimulation and challenge

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

Maintaining the benefits that engagement and involvement with culture brings

COMMUNITY

Activities, challenges and programmes that will allow us to remain connected as a community, including pupils, parents, staff and OBs

SPORT, EXERCISE AND WELLBEING

Ensuring we remain fit and healthy in mind and body

LIFE SKILLS AND PSHE

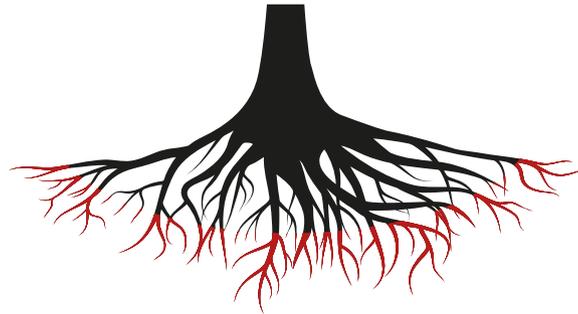
Taking the opportunity to develop and consolidate crucial skills for the next stage of life

CHARITY

Ensuring Blundell's continues to engage and support charities and initiatives that benefit our local communities and those further afield



THE ACADEMIC CURRICULUM



YEARS 7-13

WEEKLY TIMETABLE

At the heart of our Learning Community sits our innovative and exciting school timetable. Lockdown 1.0 saw Blundell's pupils thriving academically right up to the last week of the summer term.

We have built on the best of Lockdown 1.0, by enhancing and formalising the support available to pupils, and drawing on technological developments to put in place an academic timetable that we firmly believe offers pupils just the right balance between support for those who need it, and independence for those who prefer to work that way. Further, the inherent flexibility within the timetable means that pupils of all ages can moderate their method of working from week-to-week, and subject-to-subject, drawing on teacher and peer support when it is needed, but working independently when they are confident to do so.

The academic curriculum allows us to provide the following:

- The delivery of interesting, engaging and curriculum-driven content.
- The provision of small-group feedback sessions, giving pupils bespoke advice and guidance to ensure they make continued progress in their subject.
- Regular tutor sessions, where pupils can catch up with their tutor and their tutor group, get advice on structuring their week and, more simply, spend time catching up.
- Formally timetabled 'Helpdesk' sessions at the start of the week for Years 7-9, where they can meet with their teachers and get help and support on the work set for that week.
- Breakout sessions set up by departments, where pupils can meet and work together with friends and peers, and also engage with their teachers for support and advice.
- The creation of time in the week to enable pupils to work at their own pace, involve themselves in the Engagement & Enrichment programme, and spend time with their family.

The week will be structured as follows:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Lessons are uploaded by 8:30am. Teachers available for individual help and guidance.	Pupils work on tasks. Teachers available for individual help and guidance.	Pupils work on tasks. Teachers available for individual help and guidance.	Pupils work on tasks. Seminar time for feedback and help.	Pupils work on tasks. Seminar time for feedback and help.
<p>Helpdesk sessions available for Years 7-9.</p> <p>Breakout sessions available to pupils, arranged by departments.</p> <p>PSHE & Wellbeing sessions</p>	<p>Helpdesk sessions available for Years 7-9.</p> <p>Breakout sessions available to pupils, arranged by departments.</p> <p>PSHE & Wellbeing sessions</p>	<p>Helpdesk sessions available for Years 7-9.</p> <p>Breakout sessions available to pupils, arranged by departments.</p> <p>PSHE & Wellbeing sessions</p> <p>SH Arts Afternoon (see page 8)</p>		

REMOTE LEARNING 2.0: LEARNING FROM LAST SUMMER

Our experience from last summer showed us that our Remote Learning timetable enabled pupils to make excellent academic progress. In the months since, we have had the opportunity to reflect on how to improve the programme even further. In addition, technology has developed rapidly, giving us the ability to enhance our provision. As a result, Remote Learning 2.0 sees some notable developments from the summer programme.

"I REALLY ENJOYED THIS. IT ALLOWED ME TO WORK AT MY OWN PACE AS I WISHED. I ALSO FELT I HAD PLENTY OF TIME WITH MY TEACHERS"

Year 13 pupil on Lockdown 1.0

HELPDESK SESSIONS

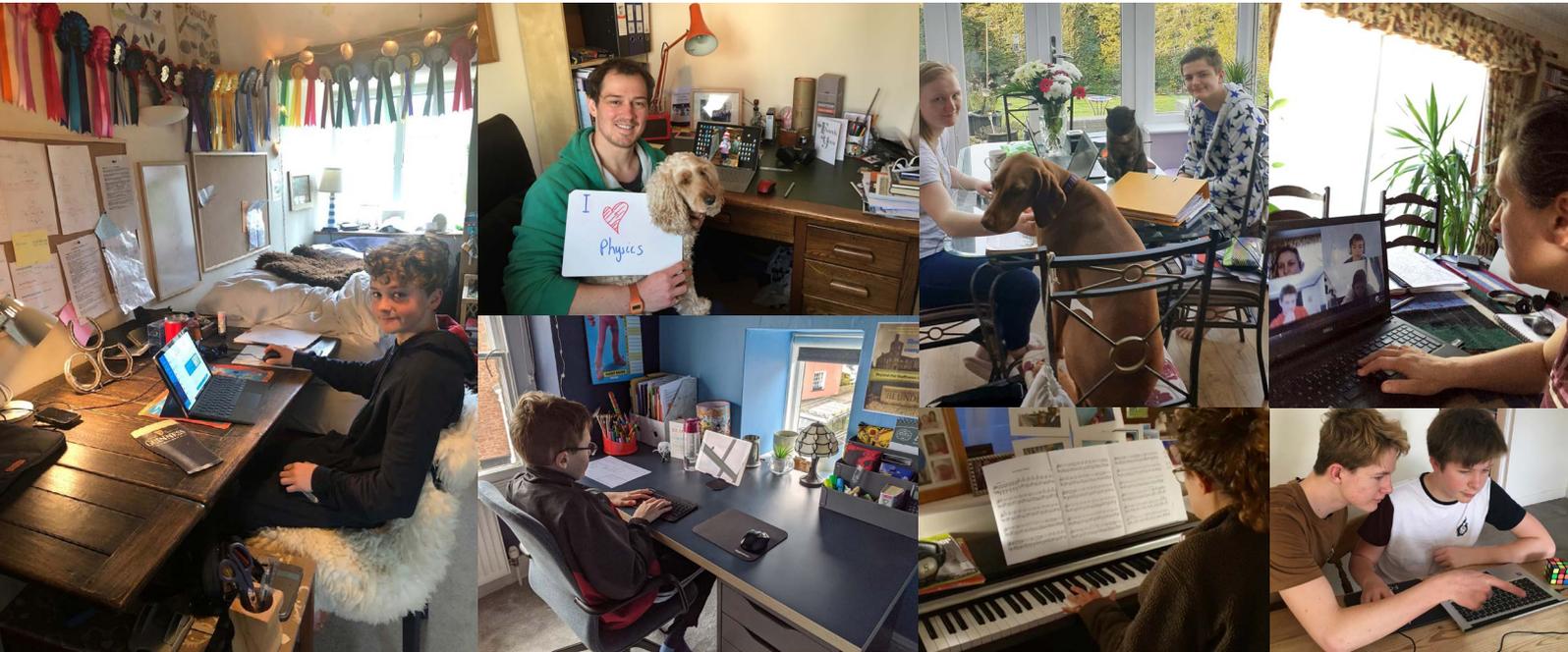
For Years 7-9, each Monday and Tuesday will see timetabled 'Helpdesk' sessions, where teachers are available for help at specified times for each subject, on a lesson-by-lesson basis. This enables those pupils who benefit from a clear structure for their learning to follow this timetable, while still allowing space for pupils who prefer to work in their own way, at their own pace.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

New technology within Microsoft Teams enables us to set up breakout sessions, where pupils can work together in different (virtual) rooms, under the overall supervision of one teacher. Departments will set these sessions up on Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays, the aim being to give pupils the opportunity to work together with friends and peers, spending time discussing their work but also, important, catching up socially and enjoying day-to-day interactions with those in their classes and subject groups.

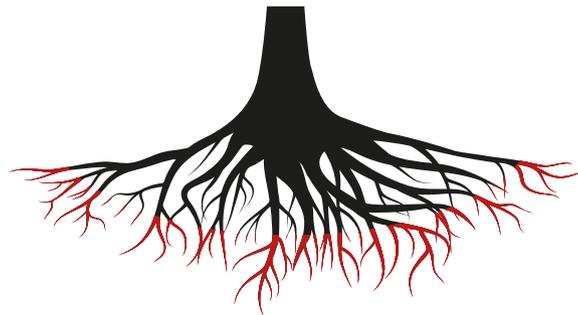
SCHOOL HOUSE 'ARTS AFTERNOON'

Building on the huge success of the 'SH Creative Arts Superhero' during Lockdown 1.0, we have now timetabled a weekly opportunity for School House pupils to explore and develop their creative side. Sitting neatly in the normal Roots & Wings slot, this not only builds additional structure into the SH week, but is also an opportunity for SH pupils to try something different each week, helping them engage with the world outside the taught curriculum, while maintaining a focus on their wellbeing and mental health.





ENGAGEMENT AND ENRICHMENT



PUPILS | PARENTS | FAMILY | OLD BLUNDELLIANS

<https://blundellsschool.sharepoint.com/sites/EngagementandEnrichment>

ENGAGEMENT AND ENRICHMENT



ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Providing intellectual stimulation and challenge



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COMMUNITY

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SPORT, EXERCISE AND WELLBEING

Ensuring we remain fit and healthy in mind and body



LIFE SKILLS AND PSHE

Taking the opportunity to develop and consolidate crucial skills for the next stage of life



CHARITY

Ensuring Blundell's continues to engage and support charities and initiatives that benefit our local communities and those further afield

"...YOU COULD MAKE YOUR OWN SCHEDULE AND WORK AROUND WHAT SUITED YOU. I ALSO REALLY ENJOYED THE ENGAGEMENT AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME AND THE EXTENSION TO THE SYLLABUS IT GAVE US."

Year 12 pupil on Lockdown 1.0

The Engagement & Enrichment site has been designed to sit alongside the Remote Learning Programme. It offers students, parents, staff and OBs a wide and varied programme of additional activities to participate in. During Lockdown 1.0, we were so impressed by how many people from the Blundell's community engaged with the E&E site. The site reached over 1000 unique viewers and we received over 105,000 hits across 85 individual pages. As well as being the hub for key elements of the usual school routine such as Latin Prayer and regular 'Thoughts for the Day' from the school Chaplain, the re-launched E&E site will again feature some of the firm favourites such as Mr Olive's Grow our Own gardening episodes, recipes suggestions, Mrs Webster's Eggbert Einstein tasks, regular sporting challenges and Mr Lambert's Skill of the Week. We hope that everyone once again gets involved in this online Blundell's community.

THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES

SH Virtual Choir	Duke of Edinburgh guides
Play Reading Group	Mr Olive's Grow Your Own
Skill of the Week	Thought for the Day
Recipes	MOOCs
Blundell's Musician of The Year	Blundell's Art Gallery
Blundell's Sporting Challenges	Spelling Bee
Yoga classes	Daily Mindfulness
Career Podcast	Give 5 Community Projects
Pilates classes	Clear Out To Help Out
Desert Island Discs	Online Safety Guides
Map Reading Challenges	Pupil Support for OB's
Eggbert Einstein challenges	Touch Typing Club
Study Skills	Photography competition
Careers Zone	First Aid courses

If you have any suggestions for activities that you would like us to feature or have any contributions for the site, please email us at engagement@blundells.org

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

The rationale:

To give pupils, and their families, the opportunity to engage in learning and development outside the taught curriculum.

The aim:

We aim to engage pupils and parents alike in learning outside the classroom together and exploring beyond the parameters of individual subjects. No compulsion, no marking, just enjoyment!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM LOCKDOWN 1.0



ABOVE: CREATIVE SUPER HERO PROJECT

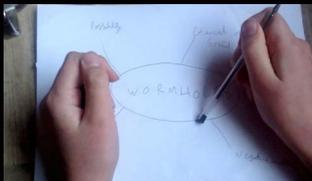
BELOW: ASTROPHYSICS MOVIE MAKER CHALLENGE



A super earth is an exoplanet that has a bigger mass than earth but smaller mass than Uranus and Neptune!

A real black hole taken by the Event Horizon Telescope.

They found a rocky earth-like planet!
This was soon to be named
Kepler-10b.



PROFESSOR EGGBERT EGGSTEIN'S EGG CHALLENGES

The challenges were designed to take two weeks from the initial design stage through to testing, competing and uploading efforts. For example 'Design and build a zip wire for your egg' or 'Design and build a land vehicle that will safely transport your egg over land' - Challenge 3 even meant creating a rocket launcher!



CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

The rationale:

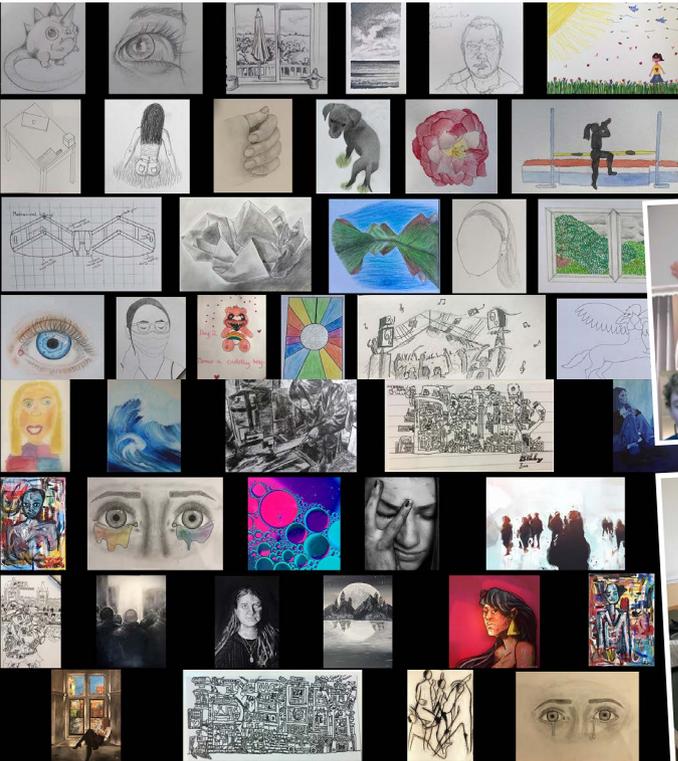
To maintain the benefit that culture brings to society at a time when, once again, our worlds have become significantly smaller, we have designed a programme which:

- Develops skills in the Arts
- Creates original work
- And is ultimately... FUN!

The aim:

- To celebrate all aspects of the creative process in ways which support and enhance learning.
- To deliver a strong online programme of community engagement activities.
- To build and stabilise relationships and the communities within Blundell's
- To develop new skills and broaden horizons

HIGHLIGHTS FROM LOCKDOWN 1.0



Blundell's School
Desert Island Discs
with Misha Pemberthy



SPORT, EXERCISE AND WELLBEING

The rationale:

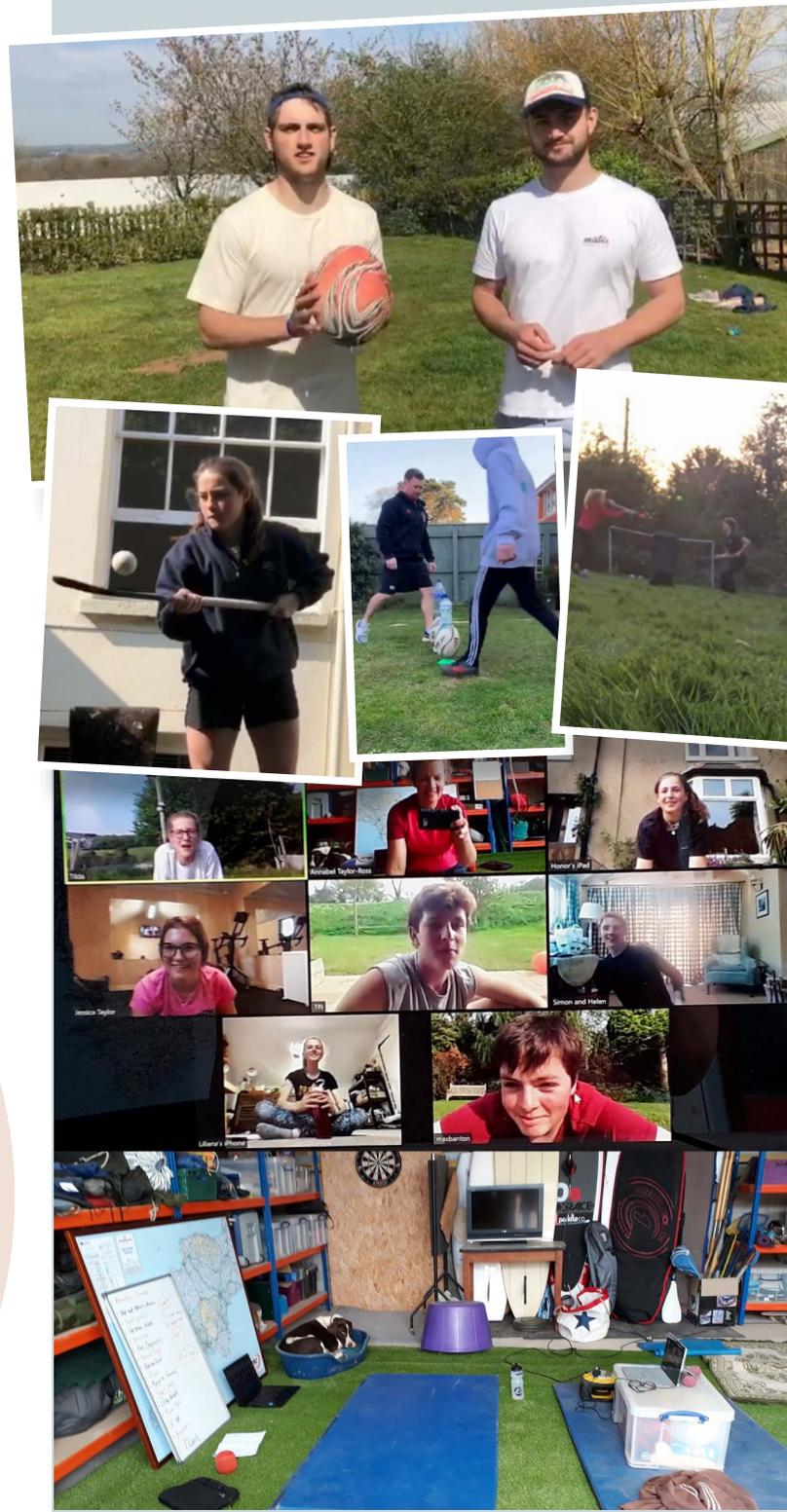
Maintaining a physically active life is a fundamental aspect of life at Blundell's, and we see no reason for this to change just because pupils are not in school.

The aim:

To provide a programme that enables pupils, parents and families to remain fit and healthy – in body and in mind – during this period of lockdown.

In these challenging times, the ability to stay physically fit, will have benefits to our body and maintaining physical fitness will ensure pupils are equipped to return to competitive sporting activities, when they resume. Physical activity releases endorphins, relieves stress and will ensure pupils sleep better, all of which will contribute enormously to their mental health and well-being.

Being able to adopt good home routines for physical activity now, will also equip our pupils as they move onto the next phase of their lives, when they are no longer being made to take part in compulsory exercise.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM LOCKDOWN 1.0



CAREERS PODCASTS

TOM VANTREEN (OH 1997-02),
now working in Commercial Real Estate.

JACK KNOWLES (W 1996-01),
now Sales Manager at Gul Watersports.

FREYA SLACK (GH 2009-16) and **ANNIE HIBBERD** (NC 2009-2016),
and who are both forging careers in the Art world.

NED MENHENEOTT (FH 2004-11),
now Country Manager, JD Ross Energy, Australia.

EMMA NELSON (GH 2013-15),
now a professional singer.

VIC MARKS
(FH 68-73 and former Staff),
ex-England cricket player and now a sports journalist.

ANNA CROSSE (NC 1996-03)
now an international commercial lawyer.

BEN BARKER (SH 1988-93),
now Managing Director of Extreme International.

DAVID LUTHER (P 2000-05),
now Registrar at the Anaesthetic and Intensive Care Unit in the
Bristol Royal Infirmary Hospital.

LIFE SKILLS & PSHE

The rationale:

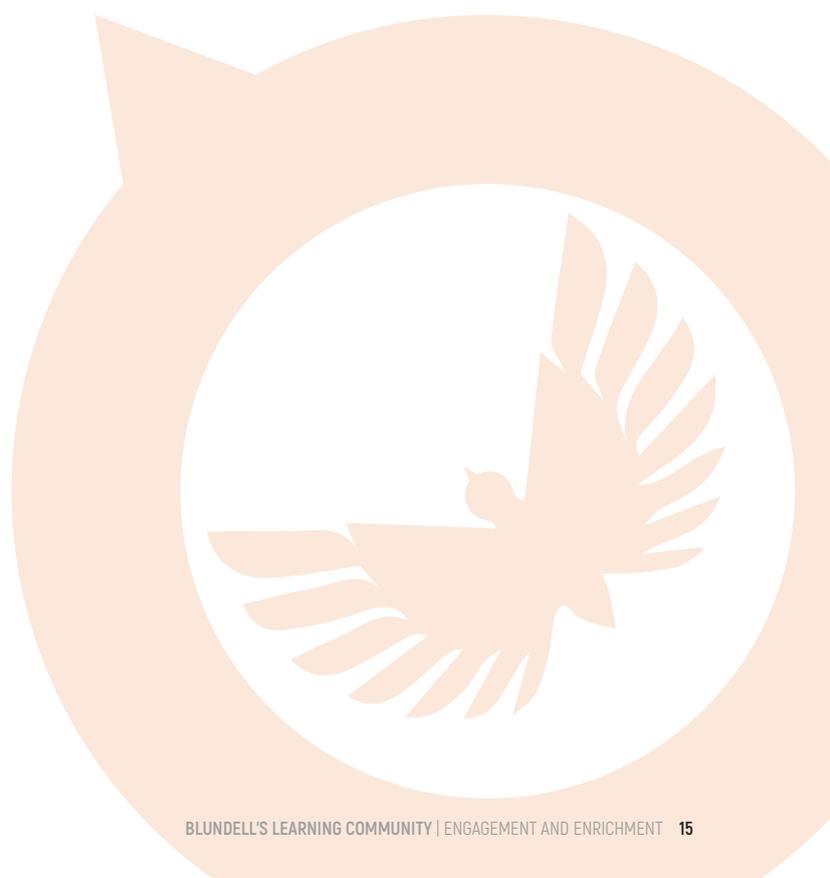
Now is the time to complement academic qualifications with tangible skills, valued by employers and University admissions teams, to develop independence, leadership and social responsibility. Our students have their Roots. This is their opportunity to use their Wings, and to become valued active citizens taking responsibility within their communities.

The aim:

To use this time as an opportunity to build skills required for life beyond Blundell's, and to prepare for the next chapter of life.

Pupils will be given the opportunity to develop and practice a wide array of essential life skills.

In addition, pupils will be given the opportunity to engage with a wide variety of programmes designed to enhance their understanding of the world around them.



CHARITY

The rationale:

Providing opportunities for the Blundell's community to continue in their charitable endeavours, and to engage with and support those who are in need of help.

The aim:

This term, many pupils had chosen to take part in the Charity Enterprise Club where we had combined entrepreneurship with fund raising for charity. Keeping to the same spirit, Lockdown 2.0 brings an opportunity to use the internet to raise funds for the School's charities. Students are encouraged to come up with any online business opportunities to help raise funds for charities. To kick start this, we will be launching 'Clear Out to Help Out' where people are invited to sell their unwanted belongings online and donate part or all of proceeds to the School's Charities. Pupils have selected three main charities that they want the School to support: Force Cancer Charity, CHAT (Churches Housing Action Team) and Down Syndrome Active. All funds raised will be equally distributed to these charities.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM LOCKDOWN 1.0

- TOP LEFT: Blundell's Food Boxes
- Top: Rainbow Run
- ABOVE: CHAT Homeless for a night
- LEFT: Cov-Aid



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