



Blundell's





And so another school year draws to a close. In the pages of The Diary you will again see many of the spectacular things that happen here at school. I do believe that Blundell's is an extraordinary school, and that is because we do certain extraordinary things AND we do some ordinary things extraordinarily well. At times something that at first seems mundane is elevated to something much more, simply because of the passion and enthusiasm of those doing it.

The last two weeks of term have been especially memorable. The exams were over and we had two weeks to do all the things that had been put on the shelf whilst we focused on ending the academic year well. Fortunately for us, the weather played along and despite having a rather disappointing summer term from a weather perspective, the sun shone for most of the last two weeks – although Speech Day was probably the wettest day of the whole term.

The CCF were out and about. The Year 7 and 8 pupils had their residentials. Various Duke of Edinburgh teams – Bronze, Silver and Gold – were conducting their expeditions in wonderful locations like Exmoor and the Brecon Beacons. The Lower Sixth had time to focus on the UCAS process. We had the most fantastic Blundell's Festival out on Big Field which was enjoyed by record numbers. Although Speech Day was wet, it was nonetheless a joyous occasion where we celebrated the success of our pupils and showcased some of the highlights from the past year.

We had a lot of cricket this term despite the weather and a special mention must go to Graham Cox and his team of groundsmen who performed miracles in preparing pitches of the highest quality against the odds. It was lovely to see the girls' game continue to flourish with regular Saturday block fixtures being played alongside the boys. One of the most memorable games was the girls' 1st XI's win against a Sherborne boys' team played on Mayfield. The 1st XI boys had an inconsistent season which included some outstanding wins, most against the MCC and Sherborne. Harry Southgate scored two very good hundreds, the latter being in the MCC match, and Seb Linnitt produced the performance of the season with a staggering 210 in our win over Sherborne.

As we draw this year to a close it is worth reflecting with gratitude on all the many blessings we enjoy as members of this community. It has been a year with significant challenges, but the enthusiasm, engagement, care, and kindness of the wider Blundell's community has made all the difference. People believe in this school. They believe in what it stands for and they are committed to its success. We know that there will be challenges ahead, but we have every reason to be optimistic as we close one year and look forward to the next.

BART WIELENGA



Shakespeare in the Garden & A Midsummer's Night Dream

Year 7 – Shakespeare in the Garden

Year 7 dazzled their loved ones with their captivating adaptations of Shakespeare's timeless tales, performed in Blundell's Garden.

Year 8 – A Midsummer Night's Dream

Well done to Year 8 for their fantastic performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. They captivated parents and set a shining example to Year 7, who took to the stage next.

Full Colours are awarded to a pupil for excellence in an area of school. When a pupil has achieved this three times, they are awarded the white blazer. Having already achieved Full Colours in Hockey and Outdoor Pursuits, Bella has achieved Full Colours in Athletics and has been awarded the white blazer.



3 Peaks Challenge



Last year Mr Frappart's Year 12 Tutor Group completed the Yorkshire 3 Peaks challenge. The group raised over £5000 with a donation being given to Bristol Children's Hospital.

HIGHLIGHTS



Blundell's Rising Star

Huge congratulations to Anastasiia for being shortlisted in the Rising Star of the Year category in the Independent School of the Year Awards! Anastasiia, a true mathematical prodigy at Blundell's, has shown exceptional talent and dedication in her time with us. Her relentless pursuit of excellence and love for learning have driven her to exceed the boundaries of her year group's maths curriculum. We are incredibly proud of her achievements and wish her the best as she moves on to the next round. Finalists will be revealed on September 9th.



Astro Pi Challenge

Almost 40 of Year 8 students took part in the Astro Pi Mission Zero Challenge this year. Our pupils designed images about the flora and fauna of the Earth and after an exciting lesson of coding in Python, they sent their work to the European Space Agency.

We were thrilled to learn that the images have been displayed in the International Space Station, which is a good reason to celebrate our pupils' success. Thank you to the European Space Agency and the Raspberry Pi Foundation for organising this challenge every year.

Junior Maths Challenge



This term Year 7 and 8 took part in the Junior Maths Challenge. This involved a variety of novel maths problems designed to challenge students' mathematical problem-solving skills.

Students performed brilliantly, attaining 7 Gold, 13 Silver and 17 Bronze awards. Very well done to Patrick, for best in the school, and Kit for the best in Year 7. Well done also to Frederick, Calvin, Lucy, Daisy and Kirill for also attaining Gold medals. All students should be very pleased with themselves for these fantastic results.

Le Meilleur Pâtissier



Mrs Munday's Year 7 class enjoyed participating in a Great Bake off style competition (Le meilleur pâtissier). The panel of judges were from our Year 12 French A level students. The competition was fierce and the final result was close. In the end, Hannah and Eliza emerged triumphant. Congratulations to all participants!

Royal Society

Ed was invited to the Royal Society in London last week for the British Physics Olympiad Awards, where he received a book prize for being one of the very top scorers in the UK in the Intermediate Physics Challenge Competition. The Awards also recognised the pupils selected for the UK Physics and Astronomy teams. At the Awards Ed heard about the experience of being in an Olympiad team, from G Research about the work they do in predicting financial markets, and a lecture from Professor Michael Cates, the Lucanian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University, on the mathematical modelling of non-Newtonian fluids.



Politics Trip

Earlier this term, the Year 12 Politics pupils attended the lively Tiverton and Minehead Constituency Hustings at Tiverton High School, hearing MP candidates from four parties discuss pertinent policy issues such as the cost-of-living crisis, climate change and food security. It was an exciting chance to see politics in action, hearing the theoretical topics we discuss in the classroom debated in a real-world context. It was also an excellent way to for the pupils to prepare for the upcoming Year 12 mock election, where pupil candidates will conduct their own hustings event as part of their campaigns, before the rest of the year head to the polling booth to cast their verdicts.



Phoenix Society Trip

The Phoenix Society visited Oxford to go to Pitt Rivers, Oxford University Museum of Natural History and to take a tour of Oxford Colleges. Students were really astounded by the sheer scale of the collections at Pitt Rivers and the Museum of Natural History, with their many items ranging from shields to objects associated with magic. The dinosaur and large mammal skeletons also impressed! This was followed by a visit to Brasenose and Wadham Colleges, with Classics teacher Mr Bunce, a student at Brasenose, leading a fantastic tour to give students an insight into College life and the history of Oxford University.



UKBC Biology Challenge

This summer term, 80 Biology students in Year 10 completed the UKBC Biology Challenge. This challenge attracts the brightest Biology students in the country – typically 45,000 students enter. To achieve a Gold award you would need to be in the top 10% and a Silver in the top 20%. Archie (Year 10 OH) and Amelia (Year 10 GH) achieved a Gold award, and Sujin (Year 10 GH) and Edie (Year 10 GH) achieved a Silver award.

Careers Carousel for Roots and Wings

In Roots and Wings this week our Year 7 & 8 students enjoyed the annual Careers Carousel, hearing from a range of speakers about the work that they do in the creative arts, product design & engineering, videography & photography, and digital marketing & advertising.

Jamie Whyte (OB) spoke about 'Crafting a Career in the Creative Arts', telling the story of his journey to illustrator and creative artist through images of his work, and projects, encouraging all of our students to grab opportunities and make the most of chances they encounter in life. The examples he showed of his work were captivating - from his illustrations of an Atlas of Tolkien for David Day's first book, 'A Tolkien Bestiary', to detailed illustrations of 18th century ships for author and historian Sam Willis.

'Careers in Digital Marketing & Advertising' was led by David Bond, Head of Training at Adopstar, based in Willand. Students learnt about the various specialisms within the industry, from SEO, to analytics and digital campaigns; the array of companies they provide a service for; all the different skills they look for in their people; and the pathways to career opportunities in this area.

Tobias Cowan & Caitlin Bird joined us from HepcoMotion, and delivered 'Careers in Product Design & Engineering'. They not only opened everyone's eyes to the diversity of what they do as a company and the far-reaching influence and impact of their products and research, but students also had the chance to get hands on and problem solve with some of the equipment that they brought along.

James Yule, delivered the talk on 'Communicating through Videography & Photography' with a selection of videos and images representing the different ways of conveying information in teaching and beyond, with an insight into the creative mind. The accompanying music added another dimension to this experience.

A big thank you to all of our presenters for helping students develop their awareness and get excited about the many professions open to them.



Intermediate Maths Challenge

Ed, Henry, and Anastasiia participated in the Intermediate Maths Olympiad, a prestigious competition for top-scoring students from the Intermediate Maths Challenge. Each paper is tailored by difficulty for specific year groups to challenge the most talented students worldwide.

Anastasiia excelled, achieving full marks in the Year 10 Hamilton paper, earning her a Gold award and placing comfortably within the top 20 internationally. She also received a regional award for the highest score in the South West.

Ed and Henry tackled the Year 11 Olympiad paper. Ed earned a Bronze award, placing him in the top 100 internationally, another impressive achievement.

Qualifying for these competitions is a challenge in itself. Ed and Anastasiia's awards are exceptional, deserving a big congratulations for their remarkable achievements.

Battlefields Trip

On the Thursday before half-term, 45 Year 9s and 3 Year 12s departed for the Battlefields of France and Belgium. The students explored Ypres, including Tyne Cot cemetery, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery in Europe, and the Passchendaele Museum in Zonnebeke. We finished our day off paying our respects to G Paddison, an OB killed in action at Sanctuary Wood. The next day was a tour of The Somme taking in Mametz Wood, The Lochnager Crater in La Boisselle, Fricourt, Thiepval, Serre and Beaumont Hamel. The highlights of this were paying our respects and reading Latin Prayer as we laid a wreath at the Thiepval Memorial where there are about 10 OBs commemorated.

The Year 9s really got a sense of the scale of the casualties and the destruction of World War One, and a sense of why it is so important to never forget. All in all, another fantastic trip to France and Belgium and one that they will remember for a long time to come.

A big thankyou to Mr Moore, Miss Flavelle, Mr Arton Powell for coming along to help supervise and a particular thank you to Mr Addison from our Estates Department, who was our resident WW1 Guru, and essentially our personal tour guide for the Somme. Thanks also to the 3 Sixth Formers for their leadership and support.



Art & Photography Celebration Evening

Blundell's Art School hosted a spectacular evening to mark the 2023/24 examination groups creative work. Record numbers attended and enjoyed the collective displays of A Level and GCSE Fine Art and Photography.

The inspiring collection showcased the talent and creativity of our students. Thank you to all of those who enthusiastically supported our students and were so very complimentary of the work they produced.



Art Enrichment

A group of our Year 12's took part in an enrichment session with local artist, Luna North. They designed and made Lino Prints, inspired by cake! A big thank you to Luna for joining us and a big well done to the Year 12's who threw themselves into the session.



The D&T scholars have spent the summer term making a land yacht which went for its first test ride on athletics yesterday. Despite only light winds there were some spectacular runs, and many capsizes! Well done to Benny, Jude and Ted.

D&T Scholars



Summer performs Animal Farm with British Youth Music Theatre

Well done to Summer (GH Year 10) who starred in Animal Farm with the British Youth Music Theatre.

BYMT is a unique opportunity for 11-21 year olds to get a taste of professional musical theatre. It supports emerging artists to further their training and career, working collaboratively on bespoke new shows that resonate with their casts.

Receiving rave reviews, a critic from the eminent Theatre and Tonic online blog commented;

"This was a great show for the ensemble, who barely spent any time off stage and

really injected life into the work, but there were certainly some standout performers in the cast. Summer, as Mollie the horse, gave us the most beautiful and innocent portrayal of her character. Her duet with Mr Jones' wife, Anna was a show stealer for me, sounding something akin to 'I'm Not That Girl' from Wicked, and I was left an emotional wreck. Well done girls."

We are very proud of Summer's achievements and look forward to seeing more of her fantastic progress in the coming concert seasons here at Blundell's as well as on the national stage.

A huge well done to the cast and crew of 'The Visit'. All of their hard work and dedication truly paid off and they should all be extremely proud of themselves.



Year 12 Examination Performance

Some of our Year 12 students performed their examination piece to a supportive audience in Ondaatje Hall. An original piece of writing, devised and performed by Maddie, Zosia, Arabella and Will, transported us back to the Victorian era with a powerful tale of injustice. Inspired by the horror genre of the Parisian Grand Guignol Theatre and the works of practitioners Stanislavski and The Paper Birds, pupils showcased a range of skills from Realism to Melodrama.



Full Colours

Congratulations to Daisy on being awarded Full Colours for Drama.

Summer Jazz Festival



ABRSM and Trinity Music Examination Results:

Congratulations to all 22 pupils who took music examinations last term for their excellent results. A particular well done to three pupils who passed Grade 8 on their instruments and voice with flying colours. From left to right in the photo above: Finn, Year 13, Grade 8 Violin, Merit. Lele, Year 13, Grade 8 Piano, Distinction. Reuben, Year 11, Grade 8 Singing, Distinction. This is a wonderful achievement, and the pupils should be extremely proud of the hours of dedication and practise over many years.

Full Colours

Congratulations to Alex, Daisy and Guy on being awarded Full Colours for Music.



Year 10 and 12 students embarked on an unforgettable cultural excursion to The Bristol Hippodrome to experience the critically acclaimed musical "Hamilton." This theatrical masterpiece, which blends hip-hop, jazz, and R&B, left an indelible impact on our students. Inspired by Lin-Manuel Miranda's innovative storytelling and the exceptional performances of the cast, our students were fully immersed in the history and excitement of this ground-breaking musical. "Hamilton"

brought history to life with its dynamic choreography and compelling themes of ambition and legacy. This experience ignited a passion for the arts and enriched our students' understanding of American history. We eagerly anticipate more enriching opportunities for our students in the future.



A group of scholars were given the opportunity to consider how they overcome the challenges of performing and particularly the importance of an accompanist.

Mr Davies has joined our visiting music teacher team this year, helping with the organ teaching provision, as well as recital accompanying and aural and theory classes. He led the thought-provoking session, with Jack (Year 13 W) and Alex (Year 13 W) put through their paces in performances on saxophone and voice. Singing teacher Eamonn Mulhall also shared his experiences as a professional singer, and I know the pupils took away a number of valuable ideas and tips to consider for their future performances.

Senior & School House Sports Day



Despite a cloudy and blustery start, our athletes arrived ready to compete at the 2024 Senior School Interhouse Track and Field competition. The house competition was fiercely contested in both the U16 and O16 age groups, with standout performances across the board. A special congratulations to Etim (P) for breaking the school record in the U16 100m with a stunning 11.6s, surpassing the previous record of 11.7s set in 2019 by Dan. Well done, Etim!

House Results:

- 1st Place: Petergate with a total of 447.5 points
- 2nd Place: Old House with 347.5 points
- 3rd Place: Francis House with 307 points

For U16, Gorton House came out on top with 311 points, followed by North Close with 237 points.

Victor Ludorum and Victrix Ludorum:

- O16 Victor Ludorum: Arthur. (Mentions: Ben, Ethan)
- O16 Victrix Ludorum: Demelza (Mentions: Taylor, Matilda)
- U16 Victor Ludorum: Etim (Mentions: Lewis, Pantxo)
- U16 Victrix Ludorum: Nerea (Mentions: Jemima, Edie)

Congratulations to all our athletes for their hard work and sportsmanship. It was a fantastic day celebrating athletic talent and house spirit!



Towards the end of term we saw the exciting School House Sports Day, blessed with perfect weather and enthusiastic support from parents. The four houses competed fiercely, with the leader board constantly changing as event results came in.

Final Placings:

- Gornhay: 622 points
- Amory: 578 points
- Beale: 576 points
- Mayfield: 551 points

- Victor Ludorum: Spencer.
- Mentions: Freddie, Paddy, Xander.
- Victrix Ludorum: Tilly.
- Mentions: Bryony, Amelia.

A huge congratulations to all our athletes for their dedication and spirited performances. It was a fantastic day of sportsmanship and house pride!





Primary Netball Festival

On Friday the 10th May, 15 of the Year 10 and 4 Year 12 Blundell's Sports Leaders ran the annual Primary School festival, here at Blundell's School. There were a total of 8 Primary schools, each bringing x2 netball teams. The afternoon was split into 2 sections, a small training session at the start which was organised by our Sports Leaders, followed by a round robin tournament. Each Primary School had an A & a B team and were each assigned a Sport Leader to be their coach for the afternoon where they took them to their matches, sorted the teams and umpired the games. The Sports Leaders did extremely well, delivering fun, engaging sessions to their teams. They demonstrated great leadership and interactional skills with the children, making it an amazing experience for all teams involved.

Titans Mid Devon Cup

Our U16 Netball squad played in the Titans Mid Devon Cup. Although it was set to be a tough afternoon of netball with all club teams playing (Blundell's being the only school team), the girls did extraordinarily well, especially with the weather conditions!

This was a great experience and learning curve for the girls as it was the first time a Blundell's team has entered. This is the largest junior club tournament in Devon, so finishing 2nd in the Shield was a fantastic result! Being the only school there, the girls should be very proud of themselves and their performance.



TENNIS



SWIMMING

Captains



CRICKET



Cricket

The summer has now seen the last game played and what a busy season it has been. The dedication shown by all players, the coaching team and the support from catering, ground staff and transport has been immense. So here are some of the highlights. Nearly, fifty per cent more matches played than in 2023, both girls and boys entered into national cups across various age groups, finalists in 5 county cups, the girls and boys at 1st XI embarking on mini-tours, a two-game hosting KES Southampton, early mornings pre-season sessions introduced as well as a pre-season session opportunities for any cricketer regardless of ability level to attend and an additional scoreboard to big field courtesy of the OBs and The Ted Crowe Fund. A double hundred scored, various hundreds and numerous five-wicket hauls plus the sign up of 33 players to tour next Easter 2025. The school has also hosted the Southwest U13 camps for Somerset, Cornwall, Devon, and other representative matches. Thank you to all the parents who support their cricketers in their endeavours, and we will continue to provide opportunities for the enjoyment and love of the game. School cricket memories will always be some of the most recited in any cricketer's playing days. Long may it continue.



The under 15 girls sailed through the 100 ball national comp against Plymouth College and won by 95 runs

Athletics – South West Track and Field Championships

Some of our Blundell's athletes competed at the South West Regional Track and Field Championships at the end of the term. A huge congratulations to Nyasha (Year 12), who won the Senior Girl High Jump and Bella (Year 13) who won the Senior Girls Shot Putt. Both Arthur (Year 12) and Arsenii (Year 10) who both produced personal bests in their events.

Swimming

It's been a busy term of swimming, with some training initially at Wivey Pool and Exeter School to allow us to have some training whilst our own pool was out of order. We also fitted in lots of galas; in the first half of term, we travelled to Sherborne, King's and Taunton and this half of term we've hosted The Maynard, Wellington and Uffculme School. We were victorious at King's, and we beat Wellington by 1 point; I always talk about every point being vital for the team and, on this particular occasion, it was! We finished off the school year with the traditional House Galas.



Congratulations to members of our swimming team who recently competed in the South West Regional Championships.

- Jodie 5 gold
- Gemma 1 silver 3 bronze
- Rose 1 silver 1 bronze
- William 6th place finish
- Lewis 7th place finish

Well done to all! National qualifying times for Rose, Lewis, Gemma, and Jodie - amazing job!

Tennis

As the summer term drew to a close, our school's tennis team celebrated a season filled with spirited competition and memorable matches. Under the exemplary leadership of our tennis captains, Artem and Bella, the team faced formidable opponents from schools such as West Buckland, Wellington School, and Queen's College.



Full Colours

Congratulations to Sophia (left), Daniel and Harry on being awarded Full Colours for Netball (Sophia) and Cricket.



Full Colours

Congratulations to Gemma and Jodie on being awarded Full Colours for Swimming (right), and Bella for athletics (left).



DofE

26 students completed their DofE assessed expedition on Exmoor. They tackled the long, hilly route, including a hike up Dunkery Beacon, the highest point on Exmoor. Despite the heat, everyone coped well, stayed hydrated, and completed their expedition aims.

Congratulations to Brad, Daniel, Javie and Isabella who have all been awarded Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards. All these awards are extremely impressive and were completed during a very busy period for the students. A special mention

to Brad who completed his physical section after 12 months training and then running the London Marathon. All four will receive their awards at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace.



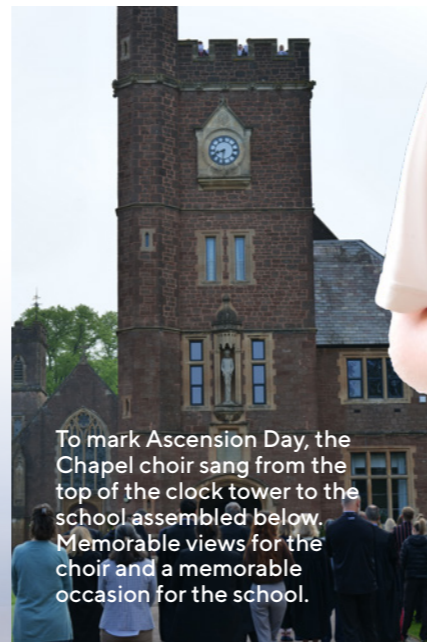
World Day for Cultural Diversity is a UNESCO awareness day for the promotion of international diversity. Begun in 2002, the multicultural day of celebration aims to highlight the abundance of cultural diversity throughout our world and collectively further human rights and increase global peace. To celebrate and promote international diversity, we enjoyed an African drumming experience in chapel followed by personal testimonials from pupils and finally a delicious African themed lunch.



Field Day

We decided to forgo a Field Day in the Spring Term because the weather is usually not very good, to have a double Field Day in the summer. Our pupils got lucky with the weather this time, and all enjoyed a good couple of days of activities. Here is the glimpse of their exciting adventures and learning opportunities:

- Year 7 – PGL Barton Hall Residential
- Year 8 – Journey Camping in Dartmoor
- Year 9 – DofE Camping Expedition & Non-DofE Outdoor Experience
- Year 10 – History pupils to Chalke Valley & Surfing and End of Year BBQ at Croyde
- Year 11 – Work Experience
- Year 12 – UCAS 2-day programme



To mark Ascension Day, the Chapel choir sang from the top of the clock tower to the school assembled below. Memorable views for the choir and a memorable occasion for the school.

Ten Tors

It was a weekend of picture-perfect weather, but for those who tackled 35 or 45 miles, it was a true test of endurance. Well done to the 21 pupils who conquered Ten Tors, as well as those who dedicated themselves to training but couldn't quite cross the finish line. All their dedication to the challenge is truly inspiring, especially in the scorching heat of the weekend.



Full Colours

Congratulations to Barnaby, Bella and Jaspar on being awarded Full Colours for Outdoor Pursuits.



This term, our community has been bustling with activity and camaraderie. We enjoyed a delightful summer BBQ at the Cabin with Tiverton High School and hosted an engaging Primary School activity day for Witheridge Academy, featuring a Classics lesson and Athletics after a delicious lunch. We marked the 80th Anniversary of D-Day with a special celebration in the Garden and held our annual Community Sports Day with the Primary Care Network. Year 2 from Blundell's Prep School, along with local primary schools, joined us for some fun outdoor learning. Our pupils also had the chance to visit the Garden Café during breaks for tasty treats, and our gardening team organized a successful plant sale. The term was beautifully rounded off with a stunning choir performance.



Tiverton High School & Blundell's Litter Pick – Saturday 27 April 2024



Summer garden open day

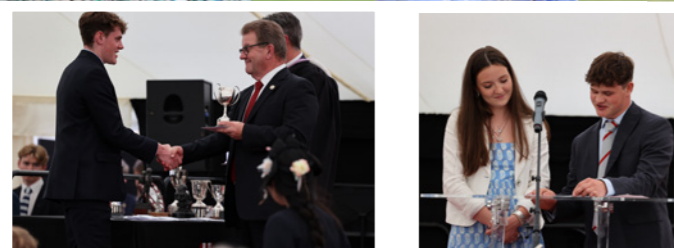


Margaret Allen and Bolham Care Homes visit, Thursday 25 April 2024

D-day



C.A.T. BBQ



Breakfast on the Go

Breakfast on the Go is a community volunteering opportunity that has become extremely popular with students. Every Thursday morning, a group of volunteers meets at 6:45 AM and heads to St. Paul's Church in Tiverton. The church provides breakfast to everyone in the community, with bacon butties and hot chocolates being particular favourites.



We also held a Home Clothes Day to raise funds for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), supporting those affected



by the war in Gaza. Poppy, Rowena and Sophie in Year 12, researched and delivered a thoughtful and compelling chapel service, explaining the conflict in Gaza, its impact on people from both sides, and the critical assistance provided by MSF.



Blundell's Sleepout

£1,500 raised!



Earlier this term 50 students spent a chilly and slightly damp summer evening outdoors on the school grounds, braving the elements with only sleeping bags and cardboard shelters. This event aimed to raise

funds and give students firsthand experience of the challenges faced by homeless individuals.

The night included a fun and engaging quiz, written and run by Year 12 student Sophie. The competition was fierce, but Arthur and Kit emerged victorious, winning the much-coveted pillow.

This event highlighted the students' empathy and community spirit as they stepped out of their comfort zones to support a worthy cause. Congratulations to all who completed this challenge – it was not easy, but their company certainly made it fun. A massive thank you to everyone who supported us through donations. Together, we have raised over £1,500 for the local homeless charity CHAT.



Money is raised for our school charities on an ongoing basis through the donation of second-hand clothing for recycling.



Update from the Director of Development

I'm writing this the day before Speech Day and the Leavers Ball, a busy time as I watch Year 13 pupils transition to Old Blundellians. Speech Day marks the end of my second term, which has been immensely enjoyable. I look forward to the next academic year in September. Over the last few months, I've enjoyed meeting more of our community and hosting lots of great events. The 1604 Society lunch and the Donor cream tea held in the Head's Garden were particular highlights. Have a lovely summer, and please mark your calendar for the Blundell's Community Winter Ball on Friday, 22nd November.

Tom Cowle
(W 1991-96)
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Reconnecting with Blundell's by Andy Morris (W 1978-82)

Having left Blundell's the summer of 1982 and after a few years working in the UK I ventured overseas and took up various contract management positions within the oil and gas sector working in locations such as Russia, Middle East, and Far East. As a result of spending 35 years abroad I unfortunately lost connection with Blundell's.

Thankfully, Janet Wooff kindly reconnected me with several Westlake comrades Mark Tucker, Christian Brooke, John Stacey to mention a few. Mark took great initiative and set up a WhatsApp group and is arranging various events which I am looking forward to attending.

Blundell's is a very special school, I have great memories and met some great people who I am looking forward to seeing again and swapping notes. Time has flown, it still feels like yesterday walking down the dog run of Westlake picking up a load of abuse from "biased boys..." hanging out of study windows after another Welsh loss to England in the rugby.

I am currently living in Tbilisi, Georgia and working in Iraq but get home on a regular basis so looking forward to attending some of the great functions being planned.

OB Day 2024

What a wonderful day we had in so many respects, which is best summed up by Olivia the President for the day's reflections.

"It was an enormous privilege to be President and I shall treasure the memories always. I rekindled old friendships, formed new ones and heard so many great stories from across the decades of Blundell's life.

The day was a very special occasion. The Chapel Service was a delight, Andrew's preaching was excellent and the reflections from both the Mayor and Headmaster were spot-on, glued skilfully together by Chair, Katharine. The food was exceptional and the welcome from pupils, staff and fellow OBs as warm as ever."

Olivia Pinkney née Richards (GH 1986-88)



If you wish to read Olivia's OB Day Speech, Andrew Berrow's Chapel Sermon or to find the link to photos taken on the day, please [click here](#) to the OB Club website.



If you have lost contact with any member of the Blundell's community and you would like Janet to assist, please make contact at obclub.co.uk and she will help in any way she can to re-establish that communication.



Call Out for to Celebrate 50 years of Girls at Blundell's School

As we prepare to mark 50 years of girls at Blundell's School next year, we need your help to make these celebrations unforgettable! Share your cherished memories, timeless photos, and precious memorabilia with us to celebrate this historic milestone. Whether or not you were one of the original Sixth Former girls in the 70s and 80s, or whether you were with us much more recently we would love to hear from you! Your contributions will enrich our existing archive collection and help us create a commemorative exhibition that reflects the remarkable journey of girls at the school over the past half century. Send all submissions to 50yearsofgirls@blundells.org by August.



Arabella Ashworth our first girl with Headmaster, Clive Gimson, in 1975

OB Sport Weekend 2024

The annual OB Sport Weekend which took place in March, was a huge success, with more than 85 members of the Blundell's community returning to either compete in the matches against pupils or support those that played. Included in the weekend was the usual boys' and girls' hockey, football, target rifle shooting and the additional touch rugby v parents, which was much enjoyed. Fives took place in April due to a clash with the National finals and soon we hope to include girls' football within future programmes.

For those who were unable to make this weekend of sport, please do consider coming next year, it was such fun and a wonderful way for all to get together, catch up and

reminisce, with the addition of some excellent complementary food prepared by the catering department and locally sourced drinks from the Beale Centre bar. Some members of the Blundell's community hadn't been back or even played the sport they participated in for years! Janet (OB Club Secretary) even managed to celebrate her 60th birthday that day. Please do let Janet obclub@obclub.co.uk know if you would like to be involved next year and we would particularly like to hear from ladies as it is the 50th anniversary of girls at Blundell's in 2025!

To see further reports and photos please open the Past Events page/ OB Sport Weekend 2024 of the Blundell's Community Website <https://blundells.alumni-online.com/frnProfile.aspx?S=8769s6w>



2 Year Reunion

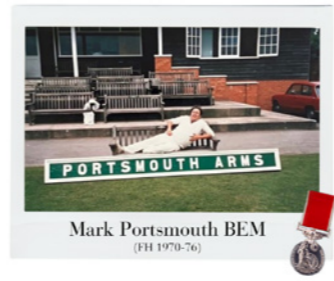
We invited the Class of 2022 back to Blundell's on 26th June for drinks and a BBQ. The sun shone and it was lovely to see so many OBs and hear all about life since Blundell's.

News & Events



Huge congratulations to Mark Portsmouth (FH 1970-76)

Mark has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the recent King's Birthday Honours for his outstanding contributions to the cricket, golf, and rugby clubs in Mumbles, South Wales. Mark's entire life has revolved around sport, and he was of course, FH Head of House and Captain of Cricket whilst at Blundell's. It's fantastic to see his dedication and achievements recognised



Teddy Taylor (P 2017-23)

OB Teddy Taylor (Blundell's first colours awarded for shooting) has recently competed in Portugal as part of the Great Britain junior team for European championships



OB Ben Coen (FH 2018-23)

Ben has been named in the England U20 Men's squad for the upcoming World Rugby U20 Championships 2024.



MCC lunch

On Thursday 27th June, the sun was shining for the MCC cricket match. We hosted a small reunion lunch at the Beale Centre and were joined by cricket star and sports journalist Vic Marks (FH 1968-73). The highlight of the day was an informative and light hearted Q&A session conducted by Christian Brook (W 1978-83), which provided an engaging and memorable end to the event.

London Drinks

On Thursday 9th May we held our annual London drinks reception 'Upstairs at the Department Store' in Brixton. With over 60 attendees we had a fantastic and sunny evening on the beautiful terrace. It was great to see our community gather, rekindling old friendships and reminiscing about their school days. Thank you to everyone who joined us, we hope to see you next year.



Hugh Morris (W 1976-82)

On leaving Blundell's, I have been fortunate to have spent a 42 year career in professional cricket. 17 of those years were as a player with Glamorgan and England and 25 as an administrator including roles as MD England Cricket and more recently CEO of Glamorgan Cricket. I am married and live in South Wales and have twin daughters. I retired on 31st December 2023 and was honoured to receive an MBE for services to cricket and charity in HM The Queen's Birthday honours in June 2022.



Weddings



Congratulations to OB Curtis Pitts (P 2008-15) and Jess Horn on their wedding which took place on Saturday 8th June 2024 at Broadclyst church, followed by a reception at Jessica's family home near Whimple.

Engagements

Congratulations to Sorrel Nixon (NC 2008-10) and Jake Hammerton who got engaged in Central Park, New York on 29th December! They recently had their engagement party at Wagtail Rooftop in London on Bank Holiday Sunday (26th May 2024). No wedding date has been set yet.



Births

Congratulations to: Grace, nee Gabbitass (NC 2001-2008) & Sam Lockwood (OH 2001-2008) welcomed a beautiful little girl, Lola-Rose Isabella on 8th May 2024.

Catherine, nee Swarbrick (GH 2004-2011) & Jamie Marshall welcomed a beautiful little girl, Poppy May on 10th May 2024.

Congratulations on the birth of Miss Cosima 'Cosi' Prideaux on Sunday 28th April, to Tom and Ele Prideaux, nee Frankpitt (GH 2002-09), one more to add to the Frankpitt family tree!



Death Notifications

08.03.24	Moberly, Robert (Bob)	OH 1960-64
17.03.24	Mumford, Clive	NC 1952-57
23.03.24	Lansdown, Edward John	NC 1963-67
24.03.24	Gardner, David Walley	M 1945-49
Late March 24	Taylor, Chris Former staff, 1988-2015 (Music, peripatetic: Trumpet)	-
21.04.24	Brown, Chris	P 1951-55
23.04.24	Beale, John Richard	M 1956-61
29.04.24	Carrel, Simon	W 1964-67

Tors play Glastonbury

Congratulations to Matt (OH 2000-2007) and Theo Weedon (OH 2002-2009) along with their band mate Jack Bowden who played the BBC Introducing Stage at this year's Glastonbury Festival. "This is a dream we've been chasing since day one as a band and we honestly cannot believe it's finally happening; we are beyond excited".



September

Sat 14th	12-5pm	1974 50th Reunion of the 1st XV Rugby Team	Beale Centre	Community
Sun 15th	All Day	Blundell's Community Rugby Trophy Tournament and Family Day	Big Field	Social
Sat 21st	08:45-12:00	Senior School Open Day	Big School	
Sun 22nd	11:00	School Service 'Salvete Scholastici'	Chapel	Social
Wed 25th		1970's & 1980's Reunion		Community

October

Wed 2nd	19:00	Highlights from House Music - a concert for parents	Big School	
Fri 4th	18:30	FH OB Reunion	Dev Office	Community
Mon 7th	All day	13+ Sport Scholarships		Social
Wed 9th		Winter Lunch, Charlie Olive (TH 1985-90) with Y11 and Y12 Pupils. Topic: "Our World Challenge Expedition to Eswatini and Mozambique" Purchase your ticket here: https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DLXL		Community
Fri 11th	17:30	Introduction to the Sixth Form Evening		Social
Sun 13th		Fives Tournament for the Reichwald Trophy. RSVP here: https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DLXW		Community
Tues 15th	19:00	Halloween Concert Concert	Big School and Chapel	Sports
Tues 15th	18:30-20:30	School House Parents' Dinner Party		Music

November

Tues 5th	19:15	Senior School Fireworks Display and Bonfire	Ten Acre Field	Social
Thurs 7th	All day	16+ Music Scholarships		Academic
Sun 10th	10:30	Remembrance Day School Service for Year 11, 12 and 13	Chapel	Social
Mon 11th	All day	16+ Sport Scholarships		Academic
Tues 12th	All day	16+ Academic, Art, Drama and STEM Scholarships		Academic
Tues 12th	18:30-20:30	School House Parents' Dinner Party	Beale Centre	Theatre
Wed 13th		Winter Lunch, David Austin (OH 1964-68). Topic: "Austins Department Store, a family story". Purchase your tickets here: https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DLXO		Community
Sat 16th	08:45-11:45	Senior School Guest Morning	Beale Centre	Theatre
Fri 22nd	19:00	The Blundell's Community 'Snow Ball'	Big School	Social
27th - 29th	19:30	Senior School Play: 'Lorna Doone' by Jill Hyem	Ondaatje Hall	

December

Wed 4th		Winter Lunch, Orlando Murrin (FH 1971-75). Topic: "A Culinary Caper for Christmas". Purchase your tickets here: https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DLXR		Community
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Blundell's

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