



Blundell's

DIARY

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE BLUNDELL'S COMMUNITY

ISSUE No: 14

The House as Home

Pastoral Care at Blundell's



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The creative arts

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Classic view

Although not one of Blundell's oldest traditions, the Christmas dinner (or 'Gut' as it is known) is one of the School's most enjoyable events, when students and staff sit down to celebrate the end of term and the forthcoming festive season. It may well have taken place earlier, but is not recorded in the calendar until 1983 when the more refined 'Christmas Supper' was scheduled for the evening before the last day of term. Initially, everyone enjoyed the meal together, but soon after School House became the junior department in 1996 it was decided that their term could end a day before the seniors, and consequently their Gut would take place a day earlier.

The amount of food consumed used to be announced during the speeches made by the Heads of School or the Catering Manager, and has been known to include 70kg of turkey, 17kg of sage and onion stuffing, 50kg of sprouts, 281kg of potatoes, 52 litres of gravy, and 36 litres of brandy sauce. Our current Catering Manager, Geoff, dispensed with the speech and instead has 'treated' everyone to his impressions of such stars as Elvis, Shirley Bassey and Tina Turner.

With a stomach (or gut, hence the name) full to bursting, everyone returns to their houses. But the night is still young! There now follows various activities that pass as 'House Entertainment', which, for those who can stay awake, has been known to carry on until 3am.

Mr Mike Sampson, School Archivist



Blundell's is a key West Country independent school which supports and guides young people to achieve their very best in whatever sphere they choose. Founded in 1604, this day and boarding school for boys and girls aged 11 to 18 is a vital community with a rich history and a great appreciation of the need to move with the times.

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HEAD'S INTRODUCTION



There is no doubt that our School days have a profound effect on the person we grow up to be. That is why I firmly believe that excellent pastoral care is at the core of what makes an outstanding academic school. The heart of our School lies in the Houses and they are a home away from home for all who become a part of them, whether they are day pupils, flexi, weekly or full boarders.

At School, your house is your identity and in turn each house reflects the personality of the members within it. From the very first day, you know that you belong and that you will be accepted for who you are. It is the place you go to work, rest, meet friends, relax, study and live every essential element of growing up. Our pupils are intensely loyal to their houses and there is a tangible sense of excitement growing as we progress this term through House debating, House drama, House matches and House music, not to mention of course the all-important test of endurance – The Russell. That really is a rite of passage for all Blundellians (both staff and students)! Our House Parents and tutors take pride in watching their charges grow in maturity and expertise right across the School curriculum, but above all, they gain most pride from seeing how the boys and girls in their care develop humanity, resourcefulness and kindness. You don't become a House Parent or a tutor without a serious sense of humour, an ability to live without much sleep, a positive outlook on life and a deep and genuine interest in seeing young people grow into the men and women we know they can be. I still truly believe that being a House Parent is the best job in the world (other than being a Head of course!) and I am so very grateful to our terrific House and tutor teams here at Blundell's for all they do, every day, to make School life safe, happy, exciting and so much fun. The smiling faces I see all the time are testament to that.

This issue of the Diary focuses on the House as Home and is once again full to bursting with reports, ideas, pictures and comments on all the terrific things that have gone on in the last busy few months. I hope you enjoy the articles here, and my thanks to the staff and pupils past and present, especially Holly Keevil, who have helped put it together.

As we all set off later this term, undoubtedly through the rain and mud, for the Russell, I can assure you that there will be fierce competition but also an equally fierce sense of community as we face this physical challenge together in the same spirit as we do all the other challenges involved in education in its widest sense. Jesse Jackson once wrote 'Never look down on someone unless you are helping him up' and I am proud to say that this is a view that is deeply ingrained into Blundellian culture. There will be plenty of courage, determination and drive in evidence during the Russell, but more importantly there will be plenty of hands to help too. I just hope someone is around to help me stagger over the line!

Nicola Huggett
Head



Jonathan Dimbleby,
chair of Any Questions?

Any Questions?

As this issue of the Diary went to print, Blundell's was looking forward to the arrival of the BBC Radio 4 programme Any Questions? to be broadcast live from the School across the nation. Tickets for the broadcast went very quickly so if you weren't able to join us at the event we hope you caught it on the radio. A report of the event will appear in the next Diary.

In Tune

Rebecca Brinkley (Year 11) has been selected for the National Children's Wind Orchestra (NCWO) for the third year in a row. Becky and her fellow clarinetists (there are just nine in the orchestra from all over the country) meet with the rest of the NCWO for some intensive music-making sessions during the Easter holidays, giving her the wonderful opportunity of playing in chamber groups, in a clarinet ensemble and as part of the whole orchestra.



The U18 county hockey champions

Hockey Champions

It has been a fantastic hockey season for Blundell's girls! The U13, U14, U16 and U18 teams all won the county championships – a wonderful achievement by all the players and a great accolade for the School to have four county champion teams. For more on hockey, please see page 26.



Coaching by the Chiefs

A number of Exeter Chiefs players have been coming into School to coach Blundell's players and to gain valuable experience for themselves about life after professional rugby. Amongst those visiting was Matt Jess, who has made more than 100 appearances and nearly 50 tries for Exeter Chiefs, seen here with the U13 Rugby Sevens activity group. For more on Rugby, please see page 28.



Bid for brilliant prizes

We are holding an online auction via the school website to raise money for the cricket overseas tours programme and for charity. There are some fantastic items to bid for including a holiday in a villa in Antigua, a stay in a luxury apartment in a mansion in Northern Ireland and in the Star Castle hotel on the Isles of Scilly and a week's stay in a Spanish villa. Please see the school website for full details on these and several other lots and for information on how to place a bid. The closing date for bids is 14 March, when there will be a final opportunity to bid in person at a Pig Racing event.



Four Oxbridge Offers

Congratulations to the four pupils who have been offered places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Rory Trevelyan Thomas has an offer to read Psychology and Linguistics at St Hilda's Oxford, Christie Wang to read Materials Science at St Catherine's Oxford, Gus de Falbe has an offer to read Natural Sciences at Queen's College Cambridge, while Alec Reade, who applied post A level, has gained a place to read Natural Sciences at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.



Science film wins national competition

Clym Montgomery (Year 13) won two categories in the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) Science Film Challenge and was runner up in three others with his film 'What happens if you take off a space helmet on the moon?' Twenty six teams or individuals from around the country took part in the challenge to make a short accurate film on an aspect of science in an engaging way. Clym's film won the most entertaining film and best animation categories and was runner

up in cinematography, best explanation and best overall independently produced movie.

The mostly animated film concludes that an astronaut would be unconscious within six seconds of taking off his helmet and shows some of the unpleasant side effects of doing so. Clym was awarded trophies for winning the two categories and also received £150 worth of Amazon vouchers. He was inspired to make the film following a Physics lesson about space.

New face for the CCF



Mr Barry Dawe is the new Schools Staff Instructor for Blundell's Combined Cadet Force. He was the Corps Regimental Sergeant Major in the Royal Marines and served for 33 years. Since leaving the Royal Marines,

Mr Dawe has worked for SkillForce, motivating and inspiring young people to succeed. He has remote camping civilian qualifications and CIEH risk assessor level 3 as well as Health and Safety and first aid training. These and his many other skills will be put to good use at Blundell's, where CCF is compulsory for all pupils in Year 10, when cadets complete the Army Proficiency Certificate. An increasing number of pupils continue into Year 11 and beyond, working their way through the cadet rank structure and developing their leadership potential.

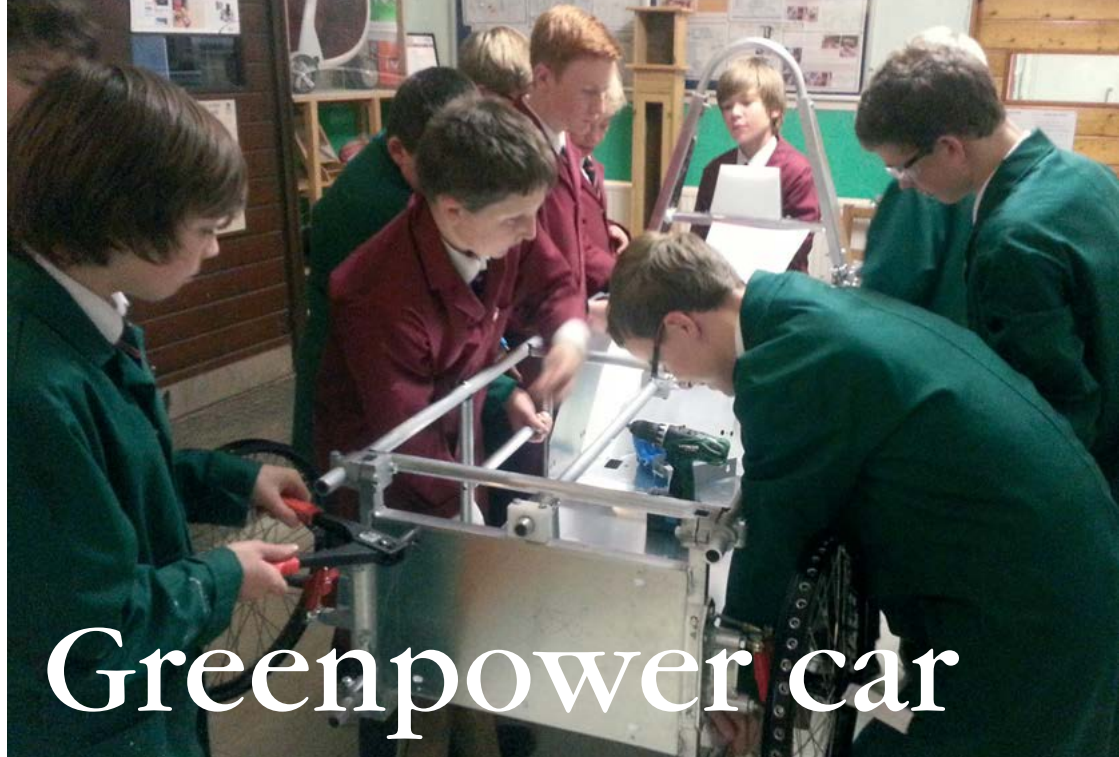


Celebrity Cricket

Blundell's is hosting a celebrity cricket match in aid of the charity the Royal National Children's Foundation on Sunday 15th June. The charity helps young people who have suffered trauma, tragedy or neglect in their young lives by providing grants and boarding school places. The 40 over match will take place between a team of celebrities, including Henry Olunga and Keith Medlycott, against a Blundell's team of sixth formers, staff and Old Blundellians; more details on page 37. In addition to the cricket, music from a steel band, a cash bar and lunch (for those who have booked tickets) there will be an auction of prizes including cricket bats signed by the England team and shirts signed by the New Zealand team amongst others. We are also seeking sponsorship for this event; please contact the Development Office with any enquiries.

DON'T FORGET

You can keep up to date with the latest Blundell's News at www.blundells.org/admin/news.htm



Greenpower car

Twenty Year 9-11 pupils are taking part in a new and exciting project run by the Design and Technology Department. The Greenpower activity involves 20 pupils who are designing and building a single seater electric race car which will take part in a national race series. The car is well under development; an aluminium chassis has been constructed that uses an electric motor and two 12V car batteries

to power the car up to speeds of 35mph. Weight and aerodynamics are extremely important and having now had a few joy rides around the car park it is time to begin the next stage of fabricating the bodywork once some initial airflow simulations have been conducted using 3D computer software. This is the first prototype but a carbon fibre tub design is planned once this

car has started racing. However, the cost involved in materials is very high and any sponsors who would like their name to appear on the car would be warmly received. If you have any expertise in this field of design and would like to contribute, the group would be interested to hear from you. For more details about the race series please see www.greenpower.co.uk

Amazing Mathematicians



The sixth form team of Gus de Falbe, Lori Burian, Run Cong Zhao and Maggie Fu Shaoyi won the South West round of the Senior Team Maths challenge, a national competition run by the UK Mathematics Trust. This year saw the highest number of entries in the regional competition, with 25 of the top independent and grammar schools in the South West taking part in the three and a half hour competition.

It was an exciting finish for the Blundell's team: they were in joint first place with Torquay Boys' Grammar as they entered the final round but, by scoring a bonus point for getting full marks in the quickest time, Blundell's were victorious by one point.

Gus, Lori, Run and Maggie also took part in the British Maths Olympiad and with Alistair Chilcott, Elliot Finch, Christie Wang and George Williams, won gold awards, making them among the top 10% of the 75,000 entrants in the UK. In addition, Blundell's pupils also won 12 bronze awards and nine silver awards. Run and Gus were also chosen to go onto the next round of the competition in which they were awarded distinctions, and Run has qualified for the final round of the British Maths Olympiad.



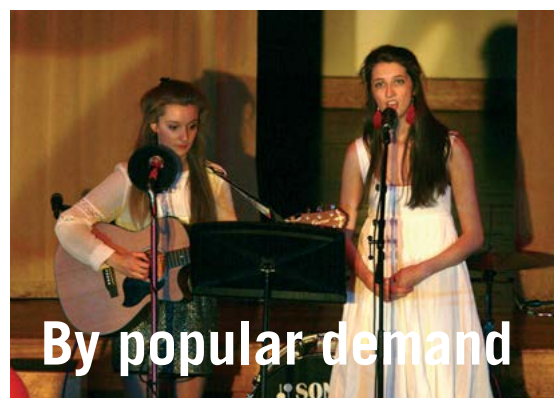
Above: Sixth form biologists with cameraman Doug Allan and copies of his book *Freeze Frame*

Year 8 and sixth form biologists had a fantastic opportunity to hear from award-winning cameraman Doug Allan when he came to give a talk in School. Doug Allan is a BBC Wildlife cameraman who has filmed, amongst many others, David Attenborough (who described him as 'the best he has ever worked with') and worked on most of the large BBC productions such as *Blue Planet*, *Frozen Planet*, *Planet Earth*, *Life of Mammals* and *Human Planet*. He also presented the *Ocean's Giants* programme. Doug has received a number of Bafta and Emmy awards for his work.



Netball team make history

The U14 netball team made Blundell's history by becoming the first netball team ever to make it through to the South West Regional round of the National Schools Netball tournament. To reach the regional round, the squad of ten played some tough matches and really showed their determination in a nail biting semi-final against Exeter School which went into extra time and was then decided on a 'golden goal'. At the regional round representing the School and the county, they played six games in utterly determined and committed manner against extremely strong opposition, winning two games, narrowly missing out on two and losing two more convincingly. The day was a great experience for the girls and gave them the opportunity to watch some excellent netball not only in their own age group, but at U16 and U19 level as well.



By popular demand

'Blundell's Unplugged', which showcases the best musical talent that Blundell's has to offer, is back due to popular demand. It promises to be a sophisticated evening of champagne, canapés and fantastic music and is not to be missed. The event, which takes place on Saturday 15th March, 7pm in Big School, is in aid of the Devon Community Foundation. Tickets are £15 (£5 for pupils) and available from the main office.

The House as Home

Pastoral Care at Blundell's: Educating for Character



All schools, any school worth its salt, will have as its priority the teaching and learning that takes place within the classroom.

Whether it is a day school or a boarding school, a Free School or an Academy, an

Independent School or a school in the Maintained Sector, they will all be striving to help pupils fulfil their academic potential. Programmes of peer review, metacognitive processing, performance tracking and other excellent educational initiatives will be tried, tested and perfected in schools across the length and breadth of the country.

And so it should be, and academic education is advancing as a result – regardless of what the press will have us believe. It is the bread and butter of the industry.

Blundell's is up there with the best in providing that outstanding academic education.

But right alongside this academic offering is the delivery of a much broader educational experience and there are far fewer schools who explicitly and thoughtfully engage with the education of the pupil's character. It is arguably Blundell's signature piece. It is deeply embedded in the ethos and culture of the School. It oozes out of the pores of the community and it is the Product that finally leaves Blundell's that bears testimony to its success. That 'Product' is of course the Individual who walks out of these gates and is prepared and primed to participate and contribute in society: young men and women with the character, and emotional aptitude and wherewithal to apply their skills with deftness and determination.

Good pastoral care implies that each pupil is individually known and cared for and that there is a safe place for each of them to thrive and grow at the pace that is just right for them. The house system and the tutoring programme is designed to help pupils to embrace reflection, to grapple with self-doubt, to recover from disappointments, to dream up new challenges and ultimately for the character to become more defined, more sculpted, more resilient, more self-assured and thoroughly prepared for a life beyond Blundell's.

Mr Bart Wielenga, Second Master



Holly Keevil (centre) with some of the SH boarders

SH and Westlake – a special bond

I am writing this having just returned from School House, which I visit with other SH monitors from Westlake every other week after their prep time. On this particular evening I have played several games of Manhunt, Touch Rugby and British Bulldog; all before attending a 'business meeting', complete with hot chocolate, in the boarders' common room. After discovering that a fellow SH member was lactose intolerant, a group of the boarders noticed a niche in the chocolate market – it is common knowledge, after all, that dairy-free chocolate has nothing on the real deal. We decided that together, we could become chocolatiers and create the world's best dairy-free chocolate, alongside fudge, ice cream and other confections. A business plan was put into action and diagrams drawn.

The most impressive thing about this evening, however, is that tonight's events are nothing out of the ordinary. I chatted to SH about the Westlake monitoring system, and they enthused that 'actually playing games' beats watching the TV any day, although hot chocolate and a good film is never objected to. Aside from the duty evenings, SH convey to me that they love having sixth form members around School that you can say 'hi!' to, 'no matter how old you are'.

The bond between the youngest members in School and the oldest is blindingly apparent. The older ones are respected, as well as being well-liked. When hiding behind trees and crouching in bushes in a fierce game of Manhunt, it is hard to believe that there is an age gap of up to six years between them.

Holly Keevil (Year 13)

The Blundell's Tutor

When they visited Blundell's recently, the ISI Inspectors were particularly struck by the 'excellent and unforced rapport' between staff and pupils. This relationship is one of the things which gives the School its personality, or in management speak, its Unique Selling Point. Central to this relationship is our tutoring programme.

Tutor groups are from the same year group and from the same house. Pupils at Blundell's will have just three tutors throughout their school career – one in Years 7 and 8, one in Years 9 to 11 and one in the 6th form. Each tutor will have specific skills, whether it's helping the new Year 7s navigate around the School and settle into Senior School life, advising the Year 10s on subject choices or directing the 6th formers through the UCAS process.

As well as staying with their tutor group for at least two years, groups are small, ensuring that each student is individually known. There's a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities at Blundell's so tutors are able to support their tutees and see them shine in all sorts of different fields – academic, sporting and creative. As well as celebrating their various achievements, a tutor helps their tutees balance their commitments so that they can engage fully with the present but also remain future-minded and achieve their individual goals.

Every week there are two formal tutor periods which provide an opportunity to monitor performance, engage with tutees individually and embark on group projects and team-building activities which empower the pupils to tackle any challenges they may face.

Our aim as tutors is to ensure that our tutees have someone to listen to them and to be attentive to their needs and we are very aware that this need may – and often does – arise outside of tutor time. In addition to this tutor time, tutors carry out a fortnightly evening duty in house which is an ideal opportunity to talk to pupils, assist them with their work but primarily to really get to know them outside of the day-school routine. This duty time really cements relationships and gives the pupils the confidence to approach tutors with any concerns, hopefully before these concerns become problems.

Of course, most students don't need constant close support but over time each one of them will need us to be there when they struggle or simply need advice. Although this can be challenging, a tutor's interventions can sometimes make a significant difference, and for this reason the role is more than a duty, it is a privilege to have the opportunity to influence a young person's future.



When I was asked the question 'What makes a good tutor?' I struggled to come up with a succinct answer. My initial response was 'a good communicator' as we must make sure that we communicate well, not only with our tutees but also with parents, House Parents and teachers. However it is so much more than that and as one of my tutees put it, a good tutor is 'someone you can trust and turn to'. So perhaps it defies definition as a strong tutoring programme is often organic, something you can't write a policy for and fosters the 'supportive and caring environment which encourages the growth of self-confidence and self-reliance' which shone through on the Inspectors' visit.

Mrs Tammy Winsley, Tutor SH

Food glorious food



Pupils and parents can see what is on the menu for breakfast, lunch and supper each day by clicking on the Dining Hall tag under Main Menu on the front page of the Senior School website. Menus revolve on a three weekly basis and there are occasional themed nights with Halloween, Mexican and Chinese being particular favourites. We are always seeking to develop and improve the range of nutritious and balanced meals and the pupil input is an important part of that through the pupil diet committee.

Our House

House monitors of the two girls' houses and three boys' houses describe traditions, events and what makes their house the best

Old House

'No Passengers'

OH is the best house because everyone is considered to be part of a successful all-rounder team. This has been a strong tradition of the house. It is the smallest house and, as we all know, the best things come in small packages. If Carlsberg could make houses they would have produced Old House. We have the best matrons in the world and that's a fact!

It is the all-rounder house and achieves in all facets of the School. The house feels that every boy has a strength and that these strengths and talents should be allowed to develop and the boys' characters shine through.

The Russell and House Music show over the years the spirit in the OH community and the feeling behind the motto, No Passengers, as does the charity fundraising for Guide Dogs for the Blind and the Pizza and Beer nights for the lower sixth.

If one thing sums up OH it is the final night of the term where the head of OH is announced and everyone congregates around the bonfire fire and sings songs until the late hours with the old lads from Westlake returning to join in.



Above: OH monitors



Petergate monitors

Petergate

There are many compelling arguments to suggest that Petergate is the best house at Blundell's. One might suggest that Petergate is the pinnacle of boarding at this School; it is renowned for having the strongest community amongst the houses as we follow the ethos of the mighty Petergate boar; an emblem of vigour and aspiration. The finest academics, the most accomplished musicians and the wholly competitive sportsmen of Petergate strive for success hungrily, more so than any of the other houses. We are unquestionably the best at public speaking; moreover we contain national level representatives from all aspects as well – especially on the sporting front. We have a reputation for regularly triumphing in the House Music, and our house plays are celebrated every year for their exceptional humour and wit. In essence, we are a clique of inspired individuals who desire togetherness; promote support for others and most of all are born to win.



Top: Passing on the baton - NC girls in the house relay

Above: NC monitors

North Close

'She who dares wins'

This motto is commonly used during the Russell and inter-house events, such as hockey, netball and Tug of War, which encourages participation from across all year groups. NC encourages people out of their comfort zone and to strive for the good of the house.

NC is the best house because there is such a tight knit community between all the year groups. It's like being with one big family, and we all treat each other like sisters. It's good for boarders at weekends, as all the years are able to come together and hang out and sit together to watch movies or play games. It's nice to be able to do this, and knowing the older years well enough to just go and ask them for help or questions etc.

NC is best known for our chip Wednesdays for 6th form and year group suppers which allow everyone to get together. Towards the end of the autumn term, the boarders enjoy mulled wine and mince pies with Mr and Mrs Crease in their private side. In the summer term, as a way to include all the boarders and so the lower sixth can spend a last weekend with everyone, each person cooks a dish that is associated with their country for all to enjoy including Mr and Mrs Crease. For the lower sixth there is a leaver's beach trip which is thoroughly enjoyed and allows the year group to get together one last time before the long summer break.

NC is best known for its handing out of roses in the dining hall in February. This event includes the whole School and means everyone can receive a small, but pretty token for Valentine's Day. The house logo features a rose in the centre to highlight the NC tradition of the Valentine's roses.



Main picture: FH put their backs into the Tug of War
Below: FH monitors

'Whether it is as part of a house play, on the rugby pitch or in the fields of academia, every man plays not only as an individual but as part of something bigger..'



Francis House

'The game is greater than the player; the ship is greater than the crew'

This sums up the FH mentality perfectly; it echoes the great sense of team spirit and belonging that binds everyone in the house together. Whether it is as part of a house play, on the rugby pitch or in the fields of academia, every man plays not only as an individual but as part of something bigger – because ultimately, there's no 'I' in Francis House (oh wait..)

FH is the best house due its warm, friendly environment. There is an obvious community spirit within FH where everyone looks out for and supports one another. The different years within the house integrate well especially the boarders who come together most evenings to partake in activities such as football in the sports hall. The pupils are great but without the behind the scenes staff, such as the cleaners and the matron and our House Master, we wouldn't know what to do!

FH hosts a multitude of events every year, everything between the famous 'Gut Entertainment' to the end of year Hog Roast, all of which are greatly enjoyed by all. There are more low key occasions such as the hotly contested table-tennis tournament, which while less public, are equally as important to us. The house philosophy of 'where there's a barbeque, there's FH' sums up our events which usually include hot food, a bit of sport and just general laughter – just how it should be.

FH is generally thought of as the sporty house within the School. The pupils, supplemented by the house gym, create quite scary opposition on the rugby field. This is shown by the amount of house rugby titles held by the house amongst the other achievements; for example, the Sports Day trophy. This is also qualified by the sizable amounts of trophies the house currently has on its shelves. The next target is the Russell trophy that seems to have eluded us for a few years.

Gorton House

Gorton House is always a vibrant place to be. In the evenings there is always a large amount of people choosing to board which gives everyone of all ages an opportunity to bond over some trashy television and biscuits. We have strengths in all areas of School life ranging from public speaking to swimming and hockey. The girls are very proud of their house, which provides them with the correct attitude to embrace opportunities in every sphere, even if not necessarily to their strengths.

GH has a party for every occasion ranging from the chocolate fountain evening to Body Shop parties as well as personal birthday parties, hosted by Miss Hosking. Guests are invited to social events, encouraging the girls to mix with staff and parents in a homely environment. GH's unique family system brings groups of pupils from Year 9 -13 together. Activities such as quizzes, movie nights and pizza making helps the younger years to bond with the sixth form and allows them in turn to connect with those who they will guide through their first years at Blundell's.

House music and drama is greatly looked forward to, as we strive to perform more challenging pieces and sometimes even compose them ourselves. The success gained in previous years keeps the spirit of competition high, in order to maintain a winning streak. In sport GH is often successful in hockey, tug of war, campus race, athletics and swimming. In public speaking and debating we are never short of eager participants willing to put forward a coherent argument for the audience and judges.



Left: GH monitors

Right: GH girls getting stuck into making bread

House Spirit

It has often been noted that once pupils move to Westlake, despite the excitement and vibrant atmosphere they experience there, they miss their respective former houses, and the sense of community they had within them. To overcome this, and to sustain the links they had with the house, the Year 9 and Westlake mentoring system was devised. Some members of the upper sixth volunteer to be 'Year 9 mentors' and are assigned a few Year 9 'mentees', with whom they develop a firm friendship. Aside from friendship, we all know how keen the members of the upper sixth are when it comes to running the Russell for their old house, and so to keep them close remains vital - to encourage team spirit if nothing else!

It seems no coincidence, therefore, that the mentoring events rely heavily on both the mentors and the mentees forming a team spirit, and working as a team. So far this term in the mentoring scheme, the mentors and mentees have taken part in a quiz, in teams comprising two upper sixth members and around six Year 9s, all from the same house. Events yet to come include the 'four sports cup', involving doubles' table tennis and squash amongst other sports, and events which the mentors and their mentees are yet to plan.

The House Parents' competitive spirits cannot be held entirely accountable for the competitive nature of the events – it is evident that the pupils themselves relish the opportunity to prove their house to be the best, and this sense of loyalty to one's house is certainly not lost in Westlake. The quiz night cannot be deemed a quiet affair, to say the least, as cries of glee – as well as the occasional grumble – could be heard from the Year 9s and the upper sixth alike, as the answers were sought after. To an outsider looking down from the balcony in Big School, it might seem surprising to watch an apparently random mixture of eighteen year olds work feverishly with thirteen year olds to arrive at an answer. Some might say that most eighteen year olds would be reluctant to be seen taking the advice, or even chatting to those five years younger than them.

The reason, of course, is unquestionably the spirit of the house, but as to what exactly 'house spirit' is, is something that you can't quite put your finger on. Undoubtedly it includes a tremendous sense of loyalty, competitiveness, and nostalgia as you visit your old house again, perhaps for a pizza and games night, as favoured by the girls' houses. Arguably more importantly, it includes a caring instinct that the older pupils feel for the younger ones, and their wish to help them along a path they have trodden themselves, only a few years ago. As well as the practical benefits of having a house system, the benefits of the sense of community and vertical friendships between years are innumerable. This would explain the immense value of the mentoring system and why people volunteer to be mentors year after year.

Holly Keevil (Year 13)



'...it includes a caring instinct that the older pupils feel for the younger ones, and their wish to help them along a path they have trodden themselves, only a few years ago...'

Left:

NC Year 9s and their upper sixth mentors Olivia See and Jemima Goss



Above: Flora Miller and Breanna Wilder coaching some keen Prep School netballers

Blundell's Prep Project

During the autumn term a group of upper sixth girls visited the Prep School once a week to help out with the after school clubs. I set up this project after having done work experience at the Prep School when I was in Year 11 and deciding that the two schools missed many opportunities to encourage pupil interaction and form bonds of friendship between the Senior and Prep School. My team consists of four: Georgia Acott, Jess Edge, Flora Miller and myself and together we involve ourselves in the Spanish Club and Sports Club. Georgia, Flora and Jess have helped in the classroom (whilst learning Spanish themselves) and have helped encourage the pupils to work and listen hard whilst also having fun and enjoying learning a new language. I have helped coach and umpire the Sports Club, consisting of thirty pupils in Years 3 to 6, both boys and girls. I have been able to pass on the knowledge I have gained from playing sport at Blundell's and feel I have helped them improve their skills and team work as well as giving them an insight into the intensity of the sport we play here. This advice will be crucial when they start the Senior School in the near future and will hopefully give them the confidence and reassurance to help improve their game, ready for their move to 'big school'.

In the near future, we would like to create our own club for the Prep School pupils, where the Senior Pupils take the lead and run the club themselves. This would benefit the older pupils as it can be classed as work experience and can help them develop the skills of leadership and teamwork, which will be vital for the future. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the Prep School and look forward to continuing this year.

Breanna Wilder (Year 13)



The GH Minion family from great great grandmothers to daughters

Gorton House recently introduced a new mentoring system where all boarders are in one of five families, with Year 9 as daughters, Year 10 as mothers, Year 11 as grandmothers and so on, up to and including the upper sixth girls who have moved to Westlake. Holly Keevil, a great great grandmother in Year 13 explains all.

When asked to write about the GH family system, I felt that my opinion would be rather rusty. Having been at Blundell's for what is soon to be seven years, I thought a much better idea would be to chat to a new pupil about her experience as part of the 'Family'. Millie Eaton-Jones is my 'great great granddaughter', and over a cup of cocoa we chatted about her first few weeks in GH and as part of the family.

As a weekly boarder, Millie found her first few weeks 'exhausting, but in a good way, a busy way!' Life in the boarding house is, and always has been, full-on. The idea of the family was to provide a comforting network of other GH girls with whom solid relationships could be formed, including girls in every year. The old tutoring system used to provide this opportunity, but when the system was changed, the family idea developed. Millie, as a new girl into Year 9, finds that 'family nights' provide a good way to get to know the older ones, an icebreaker - something she perhaps needed during her first few weeks. After the

first family pizza evening, Millie felt that it was 'nice to sit down with everyone and talk to them', in what was undoubtedly a comfortable environment, with every member of the family chatting easily.

I had thought that perhaps she would have found weekly boarding with a large number of older pupils somewhat overwhelming, but on the contrary Millie found that boarding provided an atmosphere which was 'really welcoming'. Even roll call, she says, has an easy atmosphere - coming into the common room and spending time with the other boarders in house, as the monitors check everybody in and ask about their day. This, of course, comes simultaneously with the rush for tuck, which Millie labels 'a lifesaver'!

Already, says Millie, her year has become really good friends with the Year 10s, but also, and perhaps rather more notably, the lower sixth monitors. Whilst some of the house monitors are Millie's great-grandmothers, she feels that the monitoring system is 'the best idea!' Aside from helping with prep, and being made to sit down and concentrate, working with other girls, Millie feels the lower sixth monitors to be a bit of light relief at the end of prep, as they have all been chosen as 'really lovely and mostly funny' girls. For Millie, alongside her Minion 'relatives' they serve



Above: Millie Eaton-Jones enjoys her birthday cake

as 'older sisters'. As I chat to Millie, it becomes more and more apparent that aside from security, she holds a rather touching admiration for the other girls.

For any pupil, to have other girls who you know will be there to chat to you, or help you in any way they can, is a comfort. The family system helps establish and sustain friendships, when perhaps the 'great-great-grandmothers' from Westlake would not normally have such an opportunity: to go back to their old house and meet those who will be running with them in the Russell, who will be tugging with them in the tug of war, who will be goal-scoring in house hockey. The unforced ease with which the families chatter on pizza nights demonstrates perfectly the value of the family arrangement.



The Grads

This year Blundell's has taken on five Graduate Assistants, who are bringing their youth and enthusiasm to a range of subjects at the School, whilst learning on-the-job skills. As newly minted graduates, they can also share their experiences of the academic side of university life with pupils thinking about their own futures. Here the five GAs introduce themselves and their impressions of the School.

The Graduate Assistants (left to right) James Parkin, Tim Pearce, Noémie Périnet, Alex Fisher and Luke Byrne

James Parkin

University/background: I studied History at the University of Southampton, and graduated last summer. I am from the local area; I went to school in Exeter and I have played golf at Tiverton Golf Club for years.

Role at Blundell's: I am a Graduate Assistant, with particular emphasis on sport. As a hockey coach, I spend most of my afternoons on the astroturf pitches coaching teams or umpiring matches.

First impressions of Blundell's: I already had a good idea of what Blundell's was like, having played many sports fixtures against them whilst at school (with mixed success!). The facilities are excellent, and the atmosphere is very friendly and welcoming.

How's it going?: The first term has flown by! This is my first proper teaching job, and I have enjoyed every minute of it. I have quickly settled into the school routine, and I am now looking to do a PGCE in History next year.

Where you would like to be in five years?: I would like to be working in a school like Blundell's, teaching History and coaching the hockey First XI.

Tim Pearce

University/background: I studied BA (Hons) Photography at Plymouth College of Art, where I achieved a first class degree. Before that I held many varying roles within the photographic industry, including working in portrait studios, and commercially on a freelance basis all over the world. I have since progressed into fine art photography, where I specialise in antiquarian processes.

Role at Blundell's: As Artist in Residence my role is pretty varied, but I can always be found in the art rooms offering technical assistance and critique, or working on my own photographic projects.

First impressions of Blundell's: My first impressions of Blundell's show the school to be a warm, welcoming place, with a great community atmosphere. There's a lot going on here – I don't think anyone could ever get bored! It's a great place to work, and an even better place to learn!

How's it going?: Very well so far, I'm learning a few new skills and offering some new experiences too; a good trade-off. I have a few projects in the pipeline, along with a couple of exhibitions of my work in London (as well as here at Blundell's) to look forward to. We have a great team here in the Art Department, I feel lucky to be a part of it.

Where you would like to be in five years?: I tend not to plan too far ahead in life, it may sound silly, but I do like a little spontaneity! Too rigid an idea of what we want leaves little room for manoeuvre. That being said, I would like to be making photographic works in my own studio, happy and content in life. That's all anyone really wants, I think.

Noémie Pérénet

University/background: University of Le Havre - Degree in International Trade. University of Rouen- Degree and Master's Degree of British and American History and Literature.

Role at Blundell's: French Assistant

First impressions of Blundell's: When I first arrived I had been travelling for twelve hours, I was very tired and, as one can imagine, I was a little stressed. So when I saw the Clock Tower and the Chapel I thought that I was dreaming. I remember thinking that maybe I was dreaming of Harry Potter because I was in England. Then I got out of the car, walked a little and I met Mr Wielenga who was so welcoming that all my stress disappeared.

How's it going?: The welcoming nature of this great school (or should I say, community), has continued since my arrival and I am amazed to see all the opportunities which are given to the pupils.

Where you would like to be in five years?: Eleanor Roosevelt once said 'Yesterday is history, tomorrow a mystery, today is a gift', a quotation that I love and in five years, I just hope that I will still have that way of thinking and, additionally, I would also like to be a teacher or a journalist by that time.

Alex Fisher

University/background: Before Blundell's, I attended a state school in the Midlands and then with a lot of coffee and hard work, I ascended to the dreaming spires of Pembroke College, Oxford.

Role at Blundell's: My official title is 'Graduate in Residence (English Specialism)', but I wear numerous hats, including my dramatic arts Stetson, Public Speaking and Debating deerstalker and most importantly my professorial trilby.

First impressions of Blundell's: Having attended Oxford University, Blundell's feels like a home from home with its charming and historic buildings. The surrounding area feels like something out of a Blake or Keats poem.

How's it going?: There is such an unbelievably wonderful community of helpful, polite and friendly people here at Blundell's. As first jobs go, I don't think I could have asked for anything more!

Where you would like to be in five years?: I'm afraid I'll have to take the typical 'English grad' approach: there's no definite career path, but perhaps something along the lines of health, wealth and happiness wouldn't go amiss.

Luke Byrne

University/background: I studied as an undergraduate at Brunel University and a postgraduate at The University of Exeter earning a BSc and MSc in Sports Science and Sport and Health Science respectively.

Role at Blundell's: I am the post graduate assistant for PE, a resident tutor in Old House, coach the Under 14A rugby team as well as heading up strength and conditioning in the new gym.

First impressions of Blundell's: I have grown very fond of Blundell's, both staff and pupils are extremely friendly, helpful and welcoming; together they have made the transition from university to working life a very pleasurable experience.

How's it going?: Everything's going really well, it's so enjoyable being able to teach the things I'm passionate about on a daily basis. As well as coaching the variety of different sports available here, it is great being able to take an active role training in the gym and teaching the seniors how to lift and train for the best possible results.

Where you would like to be in five years?: I am currently in the process of applying for a PGCE in Physical Education; the aim is to get a place and study to become a fully qualified PE teacher in the future.

Home Comforts



Thanks to generous support by the Blundell's Community of the Annual Fund, the boarding houses have been enhanced with 'extras' for the comfort and enjoyment of all pupils.

These include improvements to the common rooms of GH, NC, FH and Westlake, such as cushions, lighting, pictures and rugs; decking for the OH recreational area and a newly refurbished gym for Petergate. All improvements have been voted a resounding success by grateful pupils.



Beyond the Classroom

Blundell's Public Speaking Competition

Blundell's has a rich history in public speaking and it shows no sign of slowing down. In the first week of October, students from all houses, young and old, came forth to speak, chair and question each other on a vast plethora of subjects. It was refreshing to see so many of the topics resided outside, but nevertheless connected to, the curriculum showcasing, in microcosm, the various interests of our talented pupils.

The format is based on the same model used by the English Speaking Union and is quite simple. The Chair speaks for a maximum of two minutes and introduces, briefly, both the topic and the Speaker. The Speaker then orates for a maximum of five minutes at which point the Questioner is called upon to probe deeper into the subject (rather than undermine the argument(s) presented). This goes on for two minutes before the Chair invites questions from the floor and then concludes proceedings. Whilst there is no direct relation to students entering the school competition and that which is run by the English Speaking Union, it is, nonetheless, a superb training ground for them to flex their oratorical and rhetorical muscles for presentation on a local, regional and potentially national level.

Although presenting a topic to strangers, peers and teachers can be daunting, let alone the difficulty of putting an abstract interest into a concrete, presentable form, the students rose to the challenge admirably. Awards were given to the best Chair, Questioner and Speaker and then the house that received the highest score overall.

For the Seniors:

Maddy Farrant received Best Chair
Oscar Mustard received Best Speaker
Rami Holzman received Best Questioner
The overall winner was Petergate

For the Juniors:

Imi Sanders-Dutton received Best Chair
Anna Sides received Best Speaker
Hatty Nash received Best Questioner
The overall winner was Gorton House

The Public Speaking Competition inspires great confidence in its competitors and the topics that they deliver awe-inspire audiences. Indeed, our pupils show an adept proficiency in the art of oration.

Mr Alex Fisher, Graduate in Residence
(English Specialism)



'Today's young people face an increasingly competitive world and how they present themselves is vitally important no matter what career path they follow...'



Planning the Economy

In November a team of A level Economics students – Nixie Acfield (captain), Tom Youngman, Clym Montgomery and Jack Webber – took part in the Bank of England 2.0 national Economics competition. This is Nixie's report.

We presented our research and judgements to a panel from the Bank of England on the UK and World Economy and the interest rates that the Monetary Policy Committee should set. Using all the evidence that we had collected, we decided that we would agree with the Bank of England to keep interest rates as they were at 0.5% and to leave quantitative easing at £375bn.

We were competing against eight other schools in the South West. After presenting and answering difficult questions asked by the Bank of England panel and outperforming the other schools in the morning, unfortunately we were beaten by Truro School (winners) and Plymouth College (runners up) in the afternoon session. It was a great experience and we learnt a lot about the economy and the role of the Monetary Policy Committee as well as improving our teamwork and presentation skills.

Above: SH pupils were successful in the latest LAMDA exams

Record LAMDA numbers

Speech and Drama lessons are proving more popular than ever with 75 Blundell's pupils studying a wide range of subjects from Acting to Speaking of Verse & Prose to Public Speaking. These lessons explore language and performance and students learn about the power of the spoken word – all aimed at building self-confidence when speaking or performing in front of people.

In order to meet the increasing demand for these lessons, the department has recently recruited a new Speech & Drama teacher. Mr James Rochfort is a very experienced professional actor who has previously directed school productions at Blundell's. His enthusiasm for the subject is incredibly inspiring for the students.

Mrs Winsley, who has been teaching Speech & Drama at the School for four years, is delighted that the subject is being taken up by so many Blundell's students: 'Today's young people face an increasingly competitive world and how they present themselves is vitally important no matter what career path they follow. The work we do in our lessons not only helps build self-confidence but also equips the students with valuable performance and communication skills and techniques.'

Examinations in this subject are offered through the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA). In the past, Blundell's students have been very successful with these exams which, at the higher grades, are included in the UCAS tariff and therefore add valuable points.



Waste Not

In the autumn term, 15 Blundellians had the opportunity to have a thrill seeking day coasteering in Ilfracombe followed by a beach clear up at Croyde Bay. We had an energetic and exciting morning swimming along the coastline stopping off at various places to face the daunting challenge of jumping off rocks, some 30ft high! Despite this everyone did every jump, sometimes being too confident and landing the wrong way. Following the creation of SAS (Surfers Against Sewage), we acted on their message to 'Protect Our Waves' by helping to clear waste from the beach. We especially took notice of the competition that Mr Sims set of finding 'Fairy Tears' (eroded balls of plastic), with a prize for the winner. Overall everyone had a fantastic day and thoroughly enjoyed themselves as well as collecting ten full bin bags of rubbish.

Tom Hare (Year 11)

There was of course a serious purpose to this trip; the litter collectors learned that:

There are approximately 2000 items of marine litter for every km of UK beaches. More than 60% of all marine litter is plastic; one plastic bottle can take up to 1000 years to break down in the marine environment. Plastics simply break down into smaller and smaller pieces and each plastic item will do nothing but harm to the marine environment. From turtles mistaking plastic bags for jellyfish to one million seabirds dying each year from the ingestion of/ or entanglement in marine litter to small fish mistaking micro-plastics for fish eggs, the impact that plastic is having on our marine environment is catastrophic.



The Engineering Education Scheme

This year's Engineering Education Scheme is in progress and the Blundell's team is Ben Willder, Run Zhao, Rita Tao and Hector Pring, all Year 12 studying AS Level Maths and or Further Maths and have an interest also in Science and Engineering. The process started with a company visit by Ben and Run to the TDK-Lambda site in Ilfracombe to meet with Manufacturing Engineer Adrian Irwin and have a tour of the site.

Adrian is working with Blundell's for a second year after a successful partnership in 2012/13.

The project this year is to calculate the Carbon Footprint for the two Devon TDK sites and then to come up with a workable strategy to reduce it. The team may even have time to come up with a working model to calculate month on month a prediction for the footprint to inform all staff at the sites.



The Spanish Play

The Spanish Department recently welcomed the Onatti Theatre Company to perform a play called 'La habitación de Mateo' for all students of Spanish in Years 9 -11. The actors were both native speakers and they put on a very funny performance which involved audience participation. Eddie Gardner (Year 11) was called upon to show Mateo how to do a 'sexy walk' and Sam Taylor in Year 9 demonstrated his guitar skills in order to help Mateo find a girlfriend. Bonnie Price and Annabel Chatwin (Year 9) both showed him some dance moves. The students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to hear Spanish spoken and to see how the language they have learnt can be used in context, as well as learning some new vocabulary and expressions.



Year 8 Enrichment Lectures

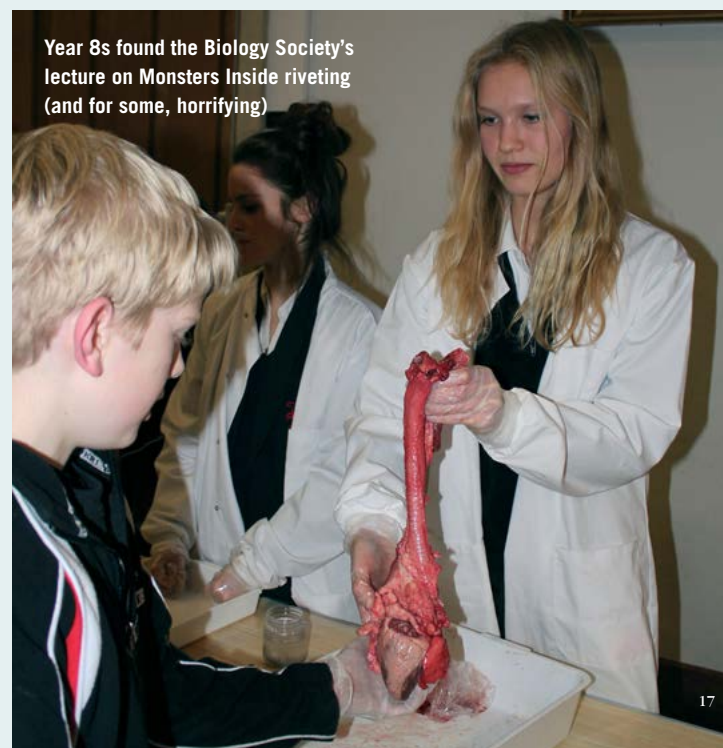


The Young Enterprise Team

The Young Enterprise team designed and produced a range of tie-die products, hand dyed by Keefa Watson (Year 11). After extensive market research, we decided that the tie-die market would be in high demand in a school environment and therefore we began production of our t-shirts in a variety of sizes and designs. Our first selling event was a stall at the Prep School's Christmas Fair. Following huge success at the event we were able to generate more than £200 profit.

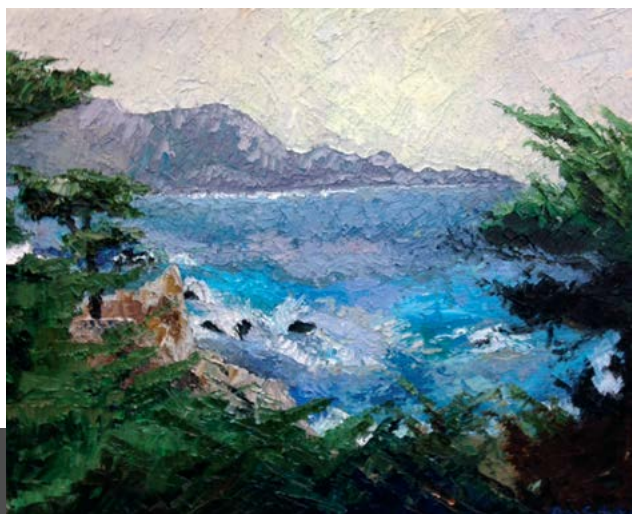
Jemima Goss, Kajal Mehta and Hector Michalopoulos

During the autumn term, all of Year 8 gathered in Ondaatje for a weekly enrichment lecture. These were given by staff, sixth form pupils or visiting speakers. The Year 8 pupils have been very enthusiastic about the programme asking good questions of the speaker and providing thoughtful answers when required. They have enjoyed a huge variety of topics: from STEM careers from visiting STEM ambassador Peter Shrubsall to the assassination of JFK from Mr Marsden, Head of History, and from current affairs from the Head to summer holiday adventures in Africa from members of the sixth form. Particularly memorable was the lecture on Monsters Inside from the Biology Society about parasites.



Year 8s found the Biology Society's lecture on Monsters Inside riveting (and for some, horrifying)

Creative – Art



Blundell's Art Department submitted several entries for the Saatchi Schools Art prize 2014 including *Sycamore Seeds*, a brass sculpture by Hector Michalopoulos (Year 13), *California Coast II*, oil on canvas by Rex Southwick (Year 12) and *Push!*, sculpted in twisted steel by Bryce Clark (Year 13) of two figures pushing against glass. The Art Department has commissioned Bryce to create a larger version of this sculpture.



Above: The plaque created for the Biology Department

Working with Glass

Glass Club has been a new and exciting activity this year for Blundell's students, offered by Mrs Armstrong Williams in the Art Department. An active glass artist, Mrs Williams' degree specialised in glass and she has exhibited and sold her work internationally for many years. The club introduces glass to the students allowing them to experiment and create hot fused and carved work in the kiln. It is hoped the medium will open another creative pathway for those pupils wishing to experiment and use the very unique qualities of the material in their coursework. Students have created jewellery, plaques, hangings and kiln carved relief pieces and are starting to apply painting techniques to the surface. Recently three SH pupils created a carved and fused iridescent plaque for the Biology Department, inspired by insects and reptiles.



All the entries can be seen on www.saatchigallery.com/portfolio/SchoolInfo/scID/381.html

Year 7 and 9 art activists created a spectacular series of hand paintings depicting animals and birds. In the space of forty minutes they were able to transform their hands and pose for the cameras.

Art Hands



Main picture: Imogen Cotton
Top right: Fenella Mably
Below: Harry Shaw and Eve Neusinger
Bottom: Annabel Chatwin



Art and Maths together

The Mathematics and Art Departments teamed up to give an excellent cross-curricular workshop to School House. The aim was to stimulate a deeper understanding of topics covered in an exciting fusion of subjects and to foster an intellectual curiosity extending beyond the curriculum. Year 7 have been studying Transformations in Maths which proved a perfect starting point to reflect, translate, rotate and enlarge a variety of shapes to make large scale patterned drawings in the gym. These were then developed with colour and construction into large kites to be suspended in the Maths block.



Creative – Drama

'Not only was the play Shakespearean, it was also a comedic pantomime, two of the hardest things an actor will have to perform, as they have to be able to act in a way in which the audience will understand the language, as well as making them laugh.'



The Comedy of Errors



During the autumn term, Years 11-13 drama students worked on a popular Shakespeare play 'The Comedy of Errors', often referred to as Shakespeare's pantomime. This is no exaggeration.

Scenes frequently consisted of audience participation and being performed in the round made it easier to do so.

The cast did so well to perform this modern interpretation, although I think they were slightly apprehensive with the choice of the play to begin with. Not only was the play Shakespearean, it was also a comedic pantomime, two of the hardest things an actor will have to perform, as they have to be able to act in a way in which the audience will understand the language, as well as making them laugh. This proved not difficult for some as Rory Clark, playing Angelo the goldsmith, often had us laughing at his well-developed accent. Can't be sure what the accent was but it was funny all the same.

When lines were learnt and the stage was set, the production became more enjoyable and the cast forgot about the slight language barrier and were able to have more fun with it. The scenes became more physical for comedy purposes including a puppet show, stage kisses and a lot of fights. This proved useful when we performed to our first audience, consisting of Year 6, 7 and 8 who found these moments extremely funny. The cast

worked particularly hard for this performance as the audience weren't necessarily going to understand what we were saying so the bigger the actions, the better.

My character, Adriana, was extremely fun to play as I probably played every emotion possible. The best part about this character is that she was just completely psychotic and I could over-exaggerate it as much as I liked. This hysterical character created a great contrast to Ella Clancy's character. She played my calm sister Luciana and was often at the brunt of my tantrums. The two scenes we performed together were most fun to act. At every performance we'd discuss backstage what else we could add to make the audience laugh. The things we found were usually subtle, like wacky facial

expressions, but those were the things we were complimented on after the performance.

A lot of people who watched the play were raving about it afterwards, saying how funny it was; really encouraging feedback and it was a shame when it finished; for some of us it was quite upsetting as it was our last school play. Altogether it was very enjoyable and very different to what many of us had done before. We were not sure what to expect at first but we're glad it turned out the way it did.

Corren Kvesic (Year 13) Captain of Drama



Creative – Music



The Sound of Music

The hills around Tiverton were alive with the Sound of Music when the autumn term got off to its usual energetic, excellent start with three performances of the School musical.

Let's start at the very beginning. The Blundell's ten day musical has become somewhat of a tradition during the Barlow years, and the Barlow-Milne partnership has been going for the last ten years. We put on a show from start to finish in ten days, with intensive, yet enjoyable rehearsals. The show is cast at the end of the summer term and pupils have their scripts over the holidays. However, staging, choreography and musical numbers are only learnt when we all meet at the start of term.

With this being a popular, well known show, there was a large cast involved, all of whom were a joy to work with. There were lots of energetic and tightly choreographed routines, as well as brilliant singing and rousing chorus numbers. The show opened with the amazing vocal sound of the Nuns' singing at vespers.

The story centres around Maria, a novice at Nonnberg Abbey, being sent to be a governess at the house of Captain Von Trapp. He has seven children and is often away. The children live a very regimented lifestyle until Maria arrives. She teaches them to sing and play; she brings happiness back into all their lives. Eventually the captain and Maria fall in love and marry, but the Nazi invasion of Austria threatens their happiness. The captain, Maria and the children, with the help of the nuns, escape from the Salzburg festival where they have just won first place, and cross the mountains into Switzerland where they are safe.

The cast were incredibly strong, led by Tash Nicholson (Maria), Rowan Carew (Captain Von Trapp), Jess Atkins (Mother Abbess) who all gave fantastic performances. The seven children, from the



vibrant Georgia King (Liesl) to the bubbly Sparkle Menzies (Gretl) were absolutely brilliant. Rory Clark was an amusing and impressive Uncle Max, whilst Breanna Wilder (Baroness Elsa) provided an early love interest for the captain. Rosalie Sanders, Imi Sanders-Dutton, Kiera McMaster and Emma Nelson were all impressive with their vocal talents in their roles as nuns.

The set was simple, yet effectively done by the use of lighting. Chris Hamilton spent many weeks designing the lighting rig. Huge thanks go to all involved in making this an outstanding production – costumes, lighting and an incredibly talented and professional band. They created an unforgettable show, with lots of energy and fantastic songs. **Mrs Becky Milne**, Head of Classics



'The set was simple, yet effectively done by the use of lighting. Chris Hamilton spent many weeks designing the lighting rig...'



Musical Venice

Thirty nine members of the choir visited Venice in December and sang in a number of wonderful venues. A short recital in the Instrument Museum with its remarkable acoustics was the first event, and on the following day a visit to the Benedetto School enabled pupils from both schools to have a joint concert and good time socialising over an excellent lunch, while some staff were able to see the extraordinary frescoes and ceiling paintings in these schools which are in former palaces. The choir was the mainstay in the Service of Nine Lessons and carols at the Anglican Chaplaincy (coincidentally founded in 1604, the same year as Blundell's) at the Church of St George. The singing was much appreciated and the congregation gave a spontaneous round of applause at the end.

Sunday began with a service in St George's again, followed by a visit to the Armenian island of San Lazzaro. The choir was transported by an old ship – Il Nuovo Trionfo – which had been restored and was used by the Settemari organisation. We were privileged not only to perform in the Chapel of the monastery, but also eat in their refectory and be shown around their extraordinary library (150000 volumes) and museum with its Egyptian mummy and ancient manuscripts, and to see where Lord Byron translated the Bible. A quicker trip back to Venice by vaporetto ensured we were ready for a service in the Basilica of St Mark's in the evening where we were in the organ loft, close to the



wonderful golden mosaics in the domes. Here too we were applauded at the end of the service by a large congregation.

The last full day had some free time where we were able to visit the Doge's Palace and cross the Bridge of Sighs to see the dungeons, as well as shop, and experience a crossing of the Grand Canal on a traghetto, while some enjoyed a gondola ride. Our final concert was at the Palazzo Papafava for the Circolo Italo Britannico and here the choir enjoyed performing to a large audience in some very elegant surroundings.

It was a hugely enjoyable trip with experiences that will be remembered forever, including those which involved flash mob style singing in some of the squares to the appreciation of many Italians. The pupils too appreciated the surroundings ('singing in St Mark's was amazing, it was so beautiful'), the people they met ('overwhelmed by the kindness of the Venetian community'), and the opportunities for performance ('the wonderful acoustics in so many buildings and being able to hear the quality of the singing').



Mr Andrew Barlow, Director of Music

Active

Whether it is part of a School activity or something they have been pursuing in their own time, Blundellians have been achieving some impressive results in (and on) their chosen field.



The Shepherd

Jack Aldridge (Year 9) was recently crowned National Young Shepherd of the Year for the second year running. Jack took part in the prestigious Rare Breeds Survival Trust's competition held at the Newbury Show and walked off with both the Junior Champion and overall Championship title.

Having qualified to compete at an earlier show, Jack was up against 11 others in his age group of 8 to 12 years and had to impress the judge with his knowledge and handling of his Oxford Down ram Trevor. Having won that, it was head to head with the winner of the 13 to 16 year old group, this time showing a sheep he hadn't handled before. Once again Jack was victorious and was presented with an impressive rosette to add to the cup and rosette he had won earlier. Winning the title was the culmination of an amazing season for Jack; despite having had no involvement with sheep until he was nine, he took seven breed champion or reserve champion awards for his Oxford Down sheep at shows last year.



The Skiers

Samantha Unsworth-White, Alice Smith and Emma Jackman, all in NC, have recently returned from France, after participating in The British Schoolgirls' Races in Flaine. Around 150 young ski racers from across the UK take part in the event for their school and this is the second time Blundell's has entered a team. The competition took place over the course of three days; the first day consisted of race training, where the girls receive coaching from ski instructors working on their slalom technique and get a chance to try the course. The second day included the giant slalom (the preferred event for the team) and the parallel slalom which is a head to head relay where the girls gave strong performances. The third day was taken up with the main slalom; this was a difficult course but showcased the girls' consistent efforts throughout their time at Flaine. After the two days were completed, the times for each competitor were added up and the final rankings determined for individual and team performances. The Blundell's team came 27th out of 50 schools – an impressive result for a team with no previous training. Overall the three girls say it was a very enjoyable experience and they hope to take part in the future.



The Biathlete

Jack Armstrong Williams (Year 8) recently represented Great Britain at the European Biathlon Championships in Portugal. This is a continuous event (timed through transition from start to finish) with a 400 metre sprint run followed by a 500 metre sea swim sprint and another 400 metre sprint run, which took place in temperatures of 30°C! Jack was up against a tough field of around 35 athletes and came 6th. He will also be representing Blundell's at the British Schools Modern Biathlon Championship in April at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park – the first public event to be held at this iconic venue. He has also recently qualified for the England Talent Programme for Modern Pentathlon.



The Kart Racer

Lewis Tancock (Year 12) has only been kart racing for two years but in that time has achieved much in this highly competitive sport. Karting is the starting point for many young aspiring racing drivers; in fact Lewis Hamilton and Michael Schumacher, amongst other World Champions, were successful kart racers. In his first season, Lewis (Tancock not Hamilton) was awarded South West Novice of the Year and finished fifth at the South West championships in his class for ages 12 – 16, and came fourth in his second season. Reaching this level involves competing in ten races during the season (February to October) of four heats each, and constant practice; Lewis says that a year of practising might add a tenth of a second to the speed reached in a race, but every little gain in time counts. He can be racing at speeds of up to 90mph on the race tracks and says it is the purest form of motor racing. Lewis is now aiming for an improved kart as he moves into the next age group with the ultimate goal of becoming a racing driver. A future F1 champion? Watch this space.

The Equestrians

A team of Blundell's equestrians are national champions, having won the Jumping with Style (JWS) Open Class, against 24 teams from across the UK at the National Schools Equestrian Association (NSEA) championships. The team, Eleanor Ansell, Rupert Batting, Lydia Stuart and Lola Watt, had qualified at earlier competitions; Blundell's was one of two schools representing the South West in the discipline at the finals. Blundell's has been attending the NSEA Championships for many years, but this is the first time they have taken the national title for this very competitive class.

Jumping with Style, also known as Arena Eventing, consists of a course of show jumps, followed by a timed course of XC fences, with skinnies and awkward turns to test both horse and rider. The style penalties, together with the jumping and time faults are added together to determine placings. Lydia Stuart was the only team member to execute a fast clear round, with the other team members following suit with fast rounds, only notching up four jumping faults each. However, the skill displayed both in the transition from a collected show jumping round, to a galloping XC section whilst still executing the tight turns and maintaining balance was recognised generously in the style marks. The Blundell's Yellow team of Eleanor Ansell, Rupert Batting and India Knott also put on a good show, but with only a team of three, didn't have the luxury of a discard score, achieving 9th place overall.



Sport



Above: The 2nd X1 battle it out with King's

Hockey

As already reported on the News Pages, Blundell's hockey girls have excelled themselves this year with wins for the U13s, U14s, U16s and U18s in the county championships. The Captain of girls' hockey, Jodie Atkins gives a round-up of the hockey season.

The 1sts have had a great season. Seeing Mrs Klinkenberg's unashamed delight at beating Canford for the first time in 16 years was a huge highlight! *

Each player in the 2nds has developed and they have grown as a team under Miss Gill's inspiring coaching. The 3rds have played with determination this term, with Eliza Tidball as a stand out player throughout the season. The mighty 4ths, or Barlow's Babes, as they are also known, have had a tremendous season, winning seven out of their nine games.

The U15As have also had a terrific season with wins against many of the opposition including Taunton and King's, Taunton. The U15Bs have also had mighty wins such as their 7-0 win against Clifton,

with great performances from Annabel Cox, Georgie Morris and Hannah Carthew.

The U14As finished the season in style with a well-deserved win over Bristol Grammar School, with goals from Eve Neusinger and Sophia Donne. The whole squad can be proud of their achievements in a remarkably well-balanced season as they won five and lost five.

The U14Bs have also had a good season and have really worked as a team. Congratulations should go to Jodie Lister as she stood out on a number of occasions.

Jodie Atkins (Year 13)

** The fantastic season by the 1st X1 was a fitting end to Mrs Klinkenberg's 17 years of coaching them.*

The results of all hockey matches can be seen on the website.

New face for hockey



We are pleased to announce the appointment of Blundell's first hockey professional. Harry Jones will take charge of player performance and hockey development of both pupils and coaches throughout the School at senior and junior levels from September. Harry is currently Assistant Coach of the Welsh U18 women's hockey team and Head Coach at Wycliffe College and Olton Hockey Club. He has a wealth of experience coaching and teaching hockey at other schools including Cheltenham Ladies and Bromsgrove, at Gloucestershire County Hockey Association and as a strength and conditioning coach with England Ladies Polo team. Harry's qualifications include a BSc (Hons) in Sports and Exercise Science, Level 3 hockey EHA coach and he is currently studying for an MSc in Conditioning Science. We hope to have an interview with Harry in the next issue of the Diary.



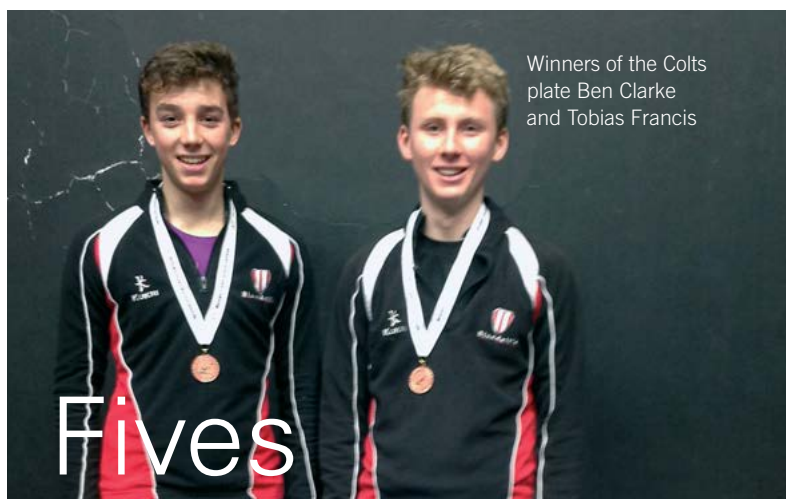
Left: The Mighty 4ths relax after a match
Below: The U16 County Champions
Below: The U14 County Champions
Bottom: Determination from the 3rd X1



Edmund Leung (Year 11) gets ready to shoot a free-throw

Basketball

The Blundell's basketball team, or Blundell's Bulls as they are also known, played some excellent matches last term. Perhaps their most exciting match was against West Buckland in which the opposing team had the lead until the fourth quarter of the game, when Luke Hedley-Dent, Ivan Leung and Feng Su scored some excellent baskets between them, taking the lead by four points. In the last few minutes, both teams played very well, and the final result was a draw 39-39. Although the Bulls lost their last match of the season against Queen Elizabeth's, the team are in good shape and have plenty of fixtures for next year.



Winners of the Colts plate Ben Clarke and Tobias Francis

Fives

We have had a very busy and exciting season so far, which started at the West of England Fives tournament where 11 of our senior and colt players competed against 11 other schools. Sam Wyatt-Haines did brilliantly to get to the final of the singles and Tobias Francis and Ben Clarke won the Colts plate. The first fixture against the RFA was an entertaining afternoon of fives, very closely contested, with Blundell's triumphing in the end 155-144. The match against Sherborne was also extremely good value, Blundell's winning overall 202-191. There were some great matches in the singles and doubles. It was good to see Emily Combe and Amy Cross back on the courts and playing so competitively against the boys! Special praise goes to Hector Michalopoulos, the 'new kid on the block', who played amazingly well after only two weeks' experience!

Our juniors also played with real commitment in the Pilgrim's Match at Winchester and although we lost overall, Will Hall-Tomkin and George Vickery secured some impressive wins. Praise should also go to Tommy Bouchier-Hayes, Josh Huggett, Miles Lawler and Jack Armstrong Williams for playing with such spirit in their first competitive school match.

Mr Chris Hedley-Dent

Below: One of the highlights for the 1st XVs was the opportunity to play at the Recreation Ground in Bath, home of Bath Rugby Club, against Kingswood School. The match was a curtain raiser for Bath's A team match against Sale. Although the Blundell's team didn't win, it was a fantastic experience for them to play at this famous ground under floodlights and a night they will never forget.

Rugby

New to the rugby department



Tony Yapp, player coach at Taunton RFC, has been appointed as a part time Director of Rugby Performance and Player Development at Blundell's. He is fully involved with coaching all boys at the School from the Prep School to the 1st XV. He also keeps the Blundell's coaches up to date with the latest philosophy and techniques of the game. Tony runs classes for our top players in all age groups three times a week in lunch time sessions and holiday rugby courses at Blundell's.



Rugby Round-up by Sam Wyatt-Haines (Year 13)

There have been many highlights of the 1st XV season including performances against Bryanston, Millfield and Monmouth and wins against Taunton School and Truro.

The 2nd XV, led by Mr Menheneott, had high hopes from the first training session. Throughout the season the mighty second fifteen have achieved wins against the likes of Bryanston, Clifton, Millfield and Monmouth amongst others. They won nine out of their 11 games, with great leadership from their captain Richard Barr.

The 3rd XV remained unbeaten until mid-November, where unfortunately they lost to a strong Millfield side; however, they won seven out of the nine games that they played, and a particular highlight was Alex Woolcock running the length of the pitch to score.

There were too many 'finest hours' to mention for the 4th XV and a healthy collection of silver medals to prove it. The highlight of the term would be the tree-like

falling of a Millfield winger by Ed Wickstead which resulted in the first sending off of a 4th XV player for 136 years!

It has been a very successful season for the U16As, and a particular highlight was drawing with Bryanston in a very tough fixture. Charlie Luxton, Ben Summers, Finn Neusinger, Will Scott and Cameron Seymour should be mentioned for their Devon selection, with the latter two being selected for the Exeter Chiefs Youth Academy. Whilst some might think it was a disappointing season for the U16Bs, there is room for improvement when these players go onto the senior levels of schoolboy rugby.

The U15As had a very successful season with wins in ten out of the twelve fixtures they played; Bristol Grammar was a high point in the season with a win of over 40 points.

Mr Gibson led the 15Bs and he said right from the start of the season that to win the

Below: Congratulations to Will Vickery, Hugh Hamilton-Green, Will Klinkenberg and Archie Stoneman who have all got through to Devon U15 Rugby Squad



Above: The U15 match against Shebbear

match you need to have more points on the board than the other team, but to win the game 15 players must walk off the pitch better men than they were when they walked on. If that is indeed true then the 15Bs won every game! However, they ended up winning seven out of their 14 games.

Whilst it has been a tough season for the under 14As, there was a large victory over Bristol Grammar where Blundell's won by 50 points. Finally whilst the 14Bs were plagued by injury and illness, when they were at full strength they were unstoppable. Highlights included a 42-0 win against Truro.

Please see the website for all sports results

Reflections on Thirty Years as a Governor of Blundell's



Reflecting on having retired as a Governor of the School after more than thirty years, with some ten years as Vice-Chairman, emphasises to me just what massive changes there have been over that time. I began my involvement just as Clive Gimson had ended his headship and then worked with four more Heads – John Rees, Jonathan Leigh, Ian Davenport and now Nicola Huggett.

But I want to start by saying a little about the role of a Governor. The Governing Body (GB) has total responsibility for the effective strategic planning and running of the business – and running an independent school really is a business operating in a highly competitive world. The most important decision the GB takes is when it appoints a new Head who then becomes, in effect, its Chief Executive. The GB delegates the running of the educational aspects, the appointment of teaching staff, attainment of academic success, the quality of the school experience for the pupils, and the day to day management of the business to the Head who works closely with the Bursar and Senior Management Team. This requires a strong and trusting relationship between Head and Governors through which mutual support prospers.

Decisions about major change and investment are made by the Governors and over the last ten years or so there has been upwards of £10 million invested in the fabric and facilities available for the pupils. These decisions do much to help to keep the school at the forefront in its competitive world. The GB has taken a series of massive decisions – the introduction of co-education, the change of age of entry from 13 to 11, the acquisition and building of the Prep School (changing the age of entry again to about six months, briefly!), sales of property and the building of the new upper sixth Westlake House, and the introduction of flexi-boarding. Then there also is the provision of better teaching facilities, Ondaatje Hall, the extended Music School, the Popham Centre, extensive upgrading of the Houses and two new floodlit all-weather playing pitches.

We have seen good times and some more worrying ones (and even inevitably some sad ones) over thirty years but overall this has been a period of massive development, positivity and improvement in both the fabric and reputation of the School. The truth is that success is always dependent on the people who deliver the quality we offer. This comprises the Head of course as the figurehead of the organisation. But their leadership also depends on all the staff – both teaching and non-teaching – who all contribute to both quality and success. People such as the maintenance and ground staff make the School what it is in visual and local impact terms. This is a big jigsaw which everyone helps to build into a grand picture.

But we have also had a lot of fun! That is important to Governors who are all totally unpaid volunteers and enthusiasts for this proud institution.

I end by expressing my gratitude to my fellow Governors for the fun and successes that we have shared and to all the staff who have contributed so much to happiness and achievement. I so value having made many friends here. We are proud of the School, but most of all we are proud of the success achieved by generations of pupils who move confidently from the safe environment of the School to personal success and careers in the wider world.

Mike Bull

Welcome



Firstly I would like to say a huge thank you to all who have so generously supported our Annual Fund during 2013. With the many donations received, we have been able to undertake the majority of the pupil chosen projects and these are now being enjoyed in the individual Houses, while the pupils at the Pre and Prep School are having a wonderful time with their new learning centre, The Hub. Without such support it really would be very difficult for us to undertake these 'additional' projects.

You will have received the Annual Fund leaflet for the current academic year, which focuses on the Peter Blundell Foundation Awards, a dedicated 'means tested' fund to enable children of outstanding ability to have access to a Blundell's education regardless of wealth. We are again featuring the Houses to help extend the projects completed this year to further the 'home from home' around the senior campus. The Pre and Prep School are seeking funding to support new outdoor play equipment to complement the Hub. Please join me and support the Annual Fund this year if you are able to do so.

The New Year brings a number of exciting events which are featured in more detail on the next few pages, but of particular note is the start of our commemoration of the fallen in the Great War, with our Pilgrimage to the Western Front led by Lt Col Tim Courtenay (OH 54-59). In June, we are delighted to be the hosts of the celebrity cricket team who support the Royal National Children's Foundation and who will be playing a team made up from the Blundell's 6th form, Old Blundellians and staff members. Please do come along and support what promises to be a terrific event with a guest speaker joining us for lunch and a wonderful steel band playing during the event.

Thank you to several Old Blundellians who sadly passed away during 2013, but very generously left a gift in their will to the school. This has enabled funding for an additional pupil requiring bursary funding with a particular musical talent for many years to come. Leaving a legacy is a vital area of support for Blundell's and if this is something which you would like to consider, please do contact me for a confidential chat. Just 1% of an estate can make such a difference to the lives of the pupils who secure a Blundell's education.

Many of you will have been to one of our sponsored events last year. Corporate support is invaluable and we have a number of very exciting projects coming up (some of which are featured on the next page), together with a range of events which take place during the school year. If you or your company is interested in these profile enhancing partnerships with Blundell's, a complete listing of all the opportunities is available.

The support many of you have given to our Business Directory and Careers Mentoring Directory has had a huge impact on pupils both past and present. We have had some very practical career evenings which are so useful in the challenging world in which we find ourselves; thank you to all those who kindly give their time and expertise to this essential initiative, it is much appreciated. The next career mentoring event is March 10th for pupils interested in the Property and Agricultural sectors; let us know if you are able to help!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Amber Oliver'.

Amber Oliver

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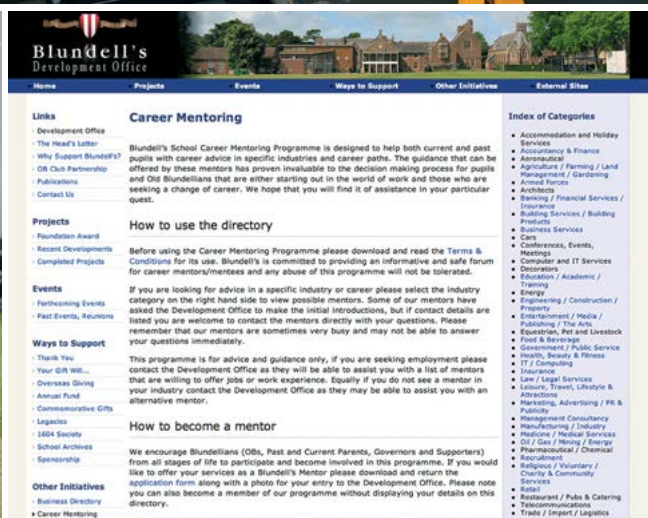


Working on the Greenpower car

Sponsorship Opportunities 2014

We have a wide range of sponsorship opportunities at Blundell's including support for a new initiative with 'Greenpower' where we are designing, building and hope to race a Blundell's electric car (see page 4); upgrading the tents used for pupil activities such as Ten Tors, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and other outdoor pursuits to withstand the ever demanding weather conditions; and support for the 1st XI cricket tour taking place this Easter. We have packaged many of our sporting events and will be increasing the profile of our supporters by producing t-shirt souvenirs for all participants so that awareness of corporate supporters lasts beyond the event on the day.

Corporate sponsorship and advertising of Blundell's events and projects exposes your company to the Blundell's community: more than 8,000 homes receive information on a regular basis about the School, its activities and its working partnerships. Communicating a positive message about your support for the school is a mutually beneficially partnership which can provide an opening for you to build brand awareness in the current challenging climate, increase sales and motivate staff who are interested in being involved in charitable support. Sponsors are credited in a range of different ways which ensure you are at the forefront of people's minds when considering services and products. If you would like to know more, please contact Amber Oliver in the Development Office.



Top: Petergate boys enjoy their refurbished gym, with equipment funded by the Annual Fund
Above left: Devon Malcolm bowling for the Celebrity Team
Above right: Sample of the Career Mentoring Directory, check out the Development Office website for more information
Left: The U16 Team wearing their tournament t-shirts kindly donated by our sponsors

Thanks to our sponsors

We are very grateful to all our sponsors who have supported events at Blundell's during 2013:

Knight Frank
Silclear Limited
Chatham Marine
Total Produce Devon
Exe Valley Eggs
West Somerset Land Rovers Ltd
Maslands Ltd
Missina Horseboxes
NJT
Western Counties Equine Hospital Ltd
Acorn Rural Property Consultants
Fox Pitt Eventing
Lumea
Westward Counties Joinery

Stags
Seddon's Estate Agents
Mayflower Kitchens
Somerset County Cars
Woofenden Construction
Olympiad HPower Group
Jotty's Emporium
What to Wear
Loyton Sporting
McTimoney Animal Therapist
National Westchem
Stapleton Farm
Firewatch South West
Philip Dennis Foodservice

Where are they now?

Blundellians go on to succeed in many walks of life. On these pages, some OBs describe what they've been doing since they left and their memories and thoughts about the school.



Alexander Hamilton (FH 96-01)

I went to Imperial College London where I spent six years studying medicine with an intercalated BSc. I graduated in 2007 and began working as a Junior Doctor in Torbay Hospital. I am now a Registrar specialising in Renal Medicine, currently working at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. My wife Rhian and I got married in 2012 and our son Ted was born in August 2013. We live in Topsham and have just finished building an extension on our house.

Any lessons you have learned that you would like to pass on to current pupils?

Work hard and play hard! Schooldays are a foundation for later life so it is well worth investing and getting everything you can from them.

Favourite memory of Blundell's

Difficult one – not many are printable! To name a few: pounding on the tables during supper if someone dropped a tray, seeing some great pranks involving the clock tower lawn, Ricky Parker's turn as the 'Russell Ghost' circa 2000, FH boys' lewd snow graffiti...

How do you think Blundell's helped you get to where you are today?

Blundell's provided me with great friends, a solid education and a hard work ethos – all essential for a career in medicine.



Ben Spalding (OH 98-05)

I had a gap year before studying Geography at Swansea University. Then I worked for SeaZone Solutions, a marine GIS mapping company, and now for HR Wallingford, a water engineering company. I am currently working for the company in Perth, Australia in ship simulation. We simulate existing ports, new ports and new ships for the purpose of familiarisation and port feasibility design, before the pilots are required to do the job in real life. Hobbies include rowing, sailing, volleyball.

Any lessons you have learned that you would like to pass on to current pupils?

If you are unsure what you want to do at university, do something you enjoy and the rest will sort itself out.

Favourite memory of Blundell's

Fantastic trips with the sub-aqua club, and great parties including The Gut and Summer Ball!

How do you think Blundell's helped you get to where you are today?

The atmosphere and breadth of education and sport available gives you the skills and right attitude for whatever you want to aim for.



Natalie Dew (GH 98-05)

I attended The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where I completed a three year acting course. I have worked as an Actor in Theatre and TV for the last six years and have just finished a play at The Hampstead Theatre in London, a new play written by Ali Taylor. I am about to start rehearsals for Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night' which will be opening at the New Everyman Theatre in Liverpool. It stars Matthew Kelly and I'm playing Olivia, which is exciting!

Any lessons you have learned that you would like to pass on to current pupils?

Always have a strong sense of self. Push yourself to achieve the things you want the most. It's also important to work hard but also know when to have fun.

Favourite memory of Blundell's

So many! GH Years 9 and 10 were pretty special. I met Viktoria Grohmann (GH 99-03), a friend who I still see on a weekly basis. The broken biscuits box seems to be a strong memory.

How do you think Blundell's helped you get to where you are today?

Blundell's encouraged me to be independent.

'The school continued to build confidence and belief that I could be whatever I want in life, whilst providing lifelong friends.'

Kwabena Asare (P 97-00)



Ryan Mason (OH 99-06)

I studied Law at Reading University before returning to Devon to join our family export business which specialises in the marine, oil and gas industries. I also started an online retail business, 'Love My County'. Alongside the two businesses, I enjoy boating on the River Exe in the summer and following the Exeter Chiefs in the winter. I try and get to London as often as possible at the weekends to visit friends from university.

Any lessons you have learned that you would like to pass on to current pupils?

Say 'Yes' to everything. Be it a careers talk, work drinks or simply an invitation to a party. You never know what opportunities may arise from it. Put yourself 'out there'.

Favourite memory of Blundell's

Waking up to find Trevor Henderson's car in the Common Room in Westlake. 'Speed Bump Gate'. Nige in general. Peter G in general.

How do you think Blundell's helped you get to where you are today?

Blundell's gave me a confidence (arrogance?) to say what I think, make an impression and to hold my own in any environment; all important attributes in any line of work or life in general.



Kwabena Asare (P 97-00)

Having travelled extensively with my family, I never wanted a gap year. I was elected as deputy president of the student union at university and I'm now working as a shipping barrister. Shipping law allows me to travel regularly, which I enjoy. I also get the opportunity to shuttle between UK and Ghana. My interests include triathlons (I hope to do more) and classic cars.

Any lessons you have learned that you would like to pass on to current pupils?

Try your hand at everything physically possible on offer at school i.e. sports, music, drama – don't limit yourself, you can always specialise at university or in your career.

Favourite memory of Blundell's

Long story, but within ten minutes of arriving on my first day, Headmaster Leigh told me that I would be in Petergate and sharing my room with Ian Friend (Roomie)!

How do you think Blundell's helped you get to where you are today?

The school continued to build confidence and belief that I could be whatever I want in life, whilst providing lifelong friends.



Venetia Offord (GH 00-04)

I took up a two year apprenticeship under sculptor and metallurgy expert Andrew Lacey. Inspired, I went to the Plymouth College of Art and did BA Honours in Sculptural metals, then to London where I worked for a Bronze Age art foundry. I worked on some very prestigious pieces of historical and contemporary sculpture; the experience was exhilarating yet exhausting and I decided that it wasn't quite the right career path for me. I returned to Devon and worked as an art technician for the summer term at Blundell's. This completely revitalised me so I applied to do my PGCE, and that's what I'm doing now whilst working as a lecturer at the Plymouth College of Art.

Any lessons you have learned that you would like to pass on to current pupils?

My advice to Blundell's students would be follow your dreams, work hard and you can achieve anything you want.

Favourite memory of Blundell's

The antics my friends and I got up to in Gorton House, I'm sure we caused the Barlows a sleepless night or two. The friends I made at Blundell's are still some of my closest. I think it shows the excellence of the school that it produces so many well rounded individuals.



Drumming up Success

Tristan Evans (OH 05-10) showed early promise at playing the drums whilst at Blundell's, a talent recently recognised on the international stage when 'Can we dance' the debut single of his band The Vamps reached number two in the UK Singles Chart late last year and charted in several other countries including Australia and Poland.



Where are they now?

Philip Eveleigh (P 94-99)

I did a gap year in Cologne, Germany, playing rugby and working for Toyota Motorsport. I then did my degree in Engineering at Brunel University and then worked for NATS (UK air traffic control) where I was an Operational Analyst doing simulations of various bits of UK airspace. I then moved to British Gypsum where I started as a Supply Chain Analyst and eventually got the job as a Process/Chemical Engineer.

Any lessons you have learned that you would like to pass on to current pupils?

Take any opportunities that come your way, go out of your comfort zone (this is where you will learn the most). Never waste a crisis. Attack the job; don't let the job attack you! Life cannot be lovely every day.

Favourite memory of Blundell's

Strangely, perhaps, in chapel singing loudly with 300-400 people all together, and also the practical jokes we played on each other.

How do you think Blundell's helped you get to where you are today?

The maxim of roots and wings sums it up very well. The 'roots' Blundell's gave me are strong relationships with family and friends as well as knowledge and education. The 'wings' are those first opportunities, sport being social as well as competitive, independence and confidence.



James Waddington (P 98-05)

I studied for a BSc in Evolutionary Biology at Edinburgh followed by an MSc in Management at BPP Business School. After graduating I returned to Tiverton to work at Heathcoat Fabrics in a couple of different Quality Engineer type roles. I am now working in the Cabinet Office which I'm really enjoying. There are always interesting things going on and I find it really exciting that my work is tied in to current affairs and that I get to see the response to various Government initiatives.

Any lessons you have learned that you would like to pass on to current pupils?

Lots of people know from a very early age that they want to be a doctor or a lawyer and they go and do it, which is great. However, if you don't know what you want to be there are lots of exciting opportunities and you can find yourself doing something better than anything you'd have been able to imagine at school.

Favourite memory of Blundell's

Probably Biology in the 6th form winding up Mr Tranchant. Not entirely sure how he coped.

How do you think Blundell's helped you get to where you are today?

Blundell's offers a breadth of opportunities which can prepare you for whatever avenue in life you'd like to pursue.



Seth Richards (P 03-09)

I went to the Guildford School of Acting to pursue a career in technical theatre. I graduated with a first-class degree and have since been working in technical theatre, mainly in construction and production management. Recently my partner and I decided to change paths and we are in the process of starting up our own business. It is a mobile tea room, operating from a vintage Citroen H van serving perfectly brewed teas and homemade cakes at West Country events!

Any lessons you have learned that you would like to pass on to current pupils?

Although I can't say how successful this career change will be at the moment, it still feels as though it will be worth all the risks and hard work to get to where we want to be. So I would advise any student not to settle for what they have but to aim for what they want.

How do you think Blundell's helped you get to where you are today?

The way in which Blundell's enables a person to have the confidence to go out and make a success of themselves, not only through the academic teaching but all the sports and extra-curricular activities. It is what has enabled me to have the skills and confidence to start up a (hopefully) successful small business!



Squadron Leader Nev Kingdon MEng RAF (M 90-95)

I went to Bristol University and completed a Master's in Aeronautical Engineering. I then spent 14 happy years flying fighters in the RAF, including Tornado F3s and F-18 Hornets in Canada. I currently work at the RAF Headquarters in High Wycombe, where I am responsible for running the pilot training for the new F35B Lightning 2 aircraft. I enjoy playing the guitar and photography.

Any lessons you have learned that you would like to pass on to current pupils?

It's OK to ask why we do things a certain way – examine the evidence and provenance, suggesting changes if it's appropriate. But know your stuff first!

Favourite memory of Blundell's

An epic inter-house flying food fight at the Gut.

How do you think Blundell's helped you get to where you are today?

Blundell's gave me a strong foundation in mathematics, which remained my strongest area at university and assisted me greatly during my pilot training.

Forthcoming Events 2014

Old Blundellian Sports Weekend

21st and 22nd March 2014

For the first time we have concentrated the traditional OB fixtures into one weekend and look forward to a good turnout of players and spectators. It is our hope that players and their families will want to play in the matches on Friday and Saturday and attend the dinner on Saturday evening (see more about the dinner below).

The details are as follows:

Friday 21st March

5.30pm Fives v School
6.30pm Hockey v School
7.30pm Refreshments in the Beale Centre

Saturday 22nd March

2.00pm Football v School
2.00pm Squash v School
2.00pm Netball v School
4.00pm Refreshments in the Beale Centre
7.00pm Black Tie Dinner and Auction in support of Blundell's Sport

If you would like to take part in any of the above fixtures please contact Janet at admin@obclub.co.uk

Left: OB hockey players looking fresh before the match



Blundell's Community Black Tie Dinner

Saturday 22nd March 2014



Rob Kitson, rugby correspondent for the Guardian, is the Guest Speaker for the dinner

We are delighted to welcome Rob Kitson, rugby correspondent for the Guardian, as our Guest Speaker at our dinner this year. All Old Blundellians, current and former parents, other supporters and members of our 6th form are invited to celebrate an evening of sporting achievements at Blundell's. The three course dinner will be followed by an auction. Tickets £35 per person, U25s £20 per person, available from the Development Office.



The Russell and Veteran's Race

Saturday 8th March 2014

Calling all our OB, current and former parents, why not come and join us for the Veterans Russell Race for either the main race (6.2 miles) at 3.15 pm or the Fun Run (3 miles) at 4.00 pm? All are welcome, come and register with us before the start.

Come and compete for the Veteran's Russell Run Trophy!



Our 2011 Hong Kong Reunion at The China Club

Hong Kong Blundell's Community Reception

Tuesday 8th April 2014

Nicola Huggett and Amber Oliver will be hosting a Blundell's Reception, by kind invitation of Jonny Hollands (OH 81-83), at The Foreign Correspondents Club, Hong Kong. Old Blundellians, current, past and prospective parents and pupils are welcome for drinks between 6.00pm and 8.00pm. Please register your interest with the Development Office.

National Trust Arlington Court Reception

Thursday 8th May 2014

Join us for an exclusive tour of the wonderful National Trust estate of Arlington Court near Barnstaple in North Devon. Tickets £25 per person to include a two course lunch. Details from the Development Office.



A full list of forthcoming events can be found on the back page

London Casual Drinks Reception

Thursday 15th May 2014

We are very grateful to James Goff (M 75-79) who has again agreed to host the Casual Drinks Reception in London, venue tbc. Please do come along to meet the Head between 6.00pm and 8.00pm; the evening promises, as always, to be a great opportunity to meet others in an informal setting.



Michael Shepherd (FH 66-72) and Paddy Armstrong enjoy a drink at The Light Bar

County Shows

Join us on **Thursday 22nd May** between 12.00 noon and 2.00pm for drinks and canapés at the Devon County Show and on **Thursday 5th June** at the Royal Cornwall Show from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.



The Blundell's Team at the County Shows - come visit us at the stand!

Year Representatives and International Ambassadors

Are you in touch with your peers from School or currently living abroad? We are trying to gather Old Blundellians who would be willing to help spread the word about forthcoming events that might interest your friends or to help welcome OBs travelling or re-locating abroad. If you are interested in helping please let us know so we can send you more information.

Henley Royal Regatta Reception

Wednesday 2nd July 2014

Our most grateful thanks to Patrick Penny (W 78-83) who has very kindly offered to host a Blundell's lunch reception at Henley Royal Regatta; do come and join us for a day of racing on the river, tickets £75 per person.

Pre-lunch drinks during the break at our last visit to the Henley Royal Regatta in 2012



1604 SOCIETY LUNCH

Thursday 15th May 2014

We are very grateful to current Governor and OB James Bullock (P 81-86) for securing the Oxford and Cambridge Club, London for our annual 1604 Society Lunch. If you have made a 'Gift in your Will' to Blundell's, please do let Amber Oliver know in order to receive your invitation.

Oxford and Cambridge Club Members of the 1604 Society are invited for our annual Legacy Lunch at the Oxford and Cambridge Club



Accountancy and Finance Reception

October 18th 2014

We will be hosting a reception lunch and exhibition specifically for Old Blundellians, current and past Blundellian parents and others from the Blundell's Community who work in the Finance and Accountancy industry. If you are currently working or are interested in this sector, please email the Development Office and we will ensure an invitation is sent to you.



70s to 80s Gaudy

Saturday 7th September 2014

If you were at Blundell's between the 1970s and 1980s, please join us for a Gaudy in Big School when there will be a lunch reception, opportunities to tour your old haunts and watch the hockey and rugby matches taking place that afternoon. Personal invitations will follow in the summer term, but save the date today!



Old Blundellian Weekend

Friday 13th to Sunday 15th June 2014

The weekend begins with an informal dinner in the Beale Centre at 8pm on Friday evening, preceded by drinks in Blundell House by kind invitation of the Head, Nicola Huggett. There are only 40 places available and tickets will be allocated to OBs and partners on a first come first served basis. There will be a cash bar and tickets are available from Janet at £20 per head.

Old Blundellian Day Saturday 14th June

This will commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War and reflect upon the domestic and international consequences of this cataclysmic conflict. The post lunch address will be delivered by an eminent historian specialising in the period of the Great War. There will be appropriate additions to the Chapel service and the pre-lunch drinks party. The Preacher will be The Reverend Canon Kenneth Parry (RM ret'd) and the lesson will be read by Brigadier Robert Tailyour (SH 58-62). There will be an exhibition of memorabilia of Blundell's at the time of the Great War in the Modern Languages Department and a number of special features to mark the occasion.

A record of Old Blundellians who lost their lives in the war is engraved on the

wall of Old Big School opposite the war memorial, detailed on the OBC website or available with much additional information in John Holland's 'Roll of Honour'.

Tickets for the day are available from Emily or Janet at £25 per head to include pre-lunch drinks, lunch and tea. As tickets are likely to be heavily in demand for this very special event, they will only be sold to Old Blundellians and partners up until 1st May. Thereafter members of the wider Blundell's community may purchase tickets, if available.

Architect's plans for the repositioning of elements of the Beale Centre and additions have been approved by the Governors and the OB Committee and will be displayed on OB Day.

Provisional programme

- 10.00am AGM – OB Club, Beale Centre
- 10.00am Great War Exhibition, Modern Languages Department
- 11.00am Chapel Service
- 12.15pm Drinks with staff, Beale Centre
- 1.15pm Buffet lunch, marquee on Big Field
- 2.00pm Blundell's Cricket, Big Field
- 4.00pm OB Tennis v School followed by refreshments in the Beale Centre
- 4.30pm Afternoon tea, Beale Centre
- 7.00pm Informal supper in the Beale Centre*

*Tickets at £5 per head available from Janet or Emily.



Former international cricketers, including Devon Malcolm (tbc), will be in action on Big Field

Celebrity Cricket Match

Sunday 15th June 2014

The Head is delighted to invite members of the Blundellian Community and partners to watch a celebrity cricket match on Big Field this summer. We are pleased to help host this event on behalf of the Royal National Children's Foundation when a team of celebrities will be playing a Blundell's team comprising Old Blundellians, staff and 6th form pupils in this 40 over match. There will be a two course lunch with guest speaker and a steel band will be playing throughout the day. Do come along and support and cheer along your chosen team. Tickets for lunch will be £25 per head and there will be a hog roast on the conclusion of the match; tickets for this can be purchased at £5 per ticket from Emily.

Programme

11.00am Match begins and the Beale Centre is open for drinks

1.00pm Buffet Lunch in the marquee on Big Field with the players

4.00pm Tea in the marquee

6.30pm Match finishes and a hog roast begins on Big Field

The Frankpitts of Blundell's

Over its long history Blundell's has educated several generations from some notable local families, and it is hoped that this article is the first of many to feature these long-held associations.

The name of Frankpitt occurs frequently in and around Tiverton and the surrounding parishes from the 1600s onwards, being almost invariably farmers. As with many local families, during the agricultural depression of the mid-19th century some younger sons sought a better life in the colonies. There is still a large branch of the Frankpitts living in New Zealand, all descended from Samuel Frankpitt, who was born at Uplowman in 1836, and emigrated in 1862. Those who remained, through determination and hard work, became much-respected amongst their fellow-agriculturalists. A cousin of Samuel's, Richard, was the father of another Richard Frankpitt who became the tenant farmer of Chapple Farm, Cruwys Morchard, in 1893, and in 1910 moved to Rix, just outside of Tiverton – a property which has housed members of the family ever since.



Richard, esteemed as a cattle dealer and fatstock judge, retired to The Larches in 1922, and was succeeded at Rix by his son, William, whose five children were all born there.

William achieved such a secure financial position that he was able to send his two sons, Gilbert and Gerald, to St. Aubyn's School and, subsequently, to Blundell's (M 39-41 and M 42-45 respectively). These two boys were the first Frankpitts to attend Blundell's, and from them (in addition to Roger Woolway (M 74-78), a son of one of their sisters) have descended all the other members of the family who have studied at the School.

Gilbert, who later farmed Chettiscombe Barton, sent his eldest son, John, to Blundell's, but, tragically, he died aged just 14, while still at the School. Although Gilbert's other two sons, David and Richard,



did not attend Blundell's themselves, Richard's three children, William, Bobby, and Harry, were educated here during the first decade of this century.

Gerald, who took over from his father at Rix, had all his five children – four boys and one girl – educated at Blundell's. His eldest son, Michael, the current occupier of Rix, was at Milestones for the years 1970-71, and has maintained a keen interest in the School in more recent times as his three boys, James and the twins Henry and Thomas, were here for seven years each, and his wife, Alison joined the Blundell's staff in 2000, and remains a highly valued member of the Common Room, teaching Biology and PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education). Gerald's second son, Jeremy, was at Milestones from 1970 to 1974, and soon after his marriage in 1978, emigrated to Australia and there started a family. However, the pull of the homeland was too strong, and he returned to start a life as a cheese maker and poultry farmer, with two of his children, Holly and Alexander, entering Blundell's. Another son of Jeremy's, Charlie, is currently at the School, and will hopefully be joined by his brother, Luca this year.

Marcus Frankpitt, Gerald's third son, also a Day Boy at Milestones (71-75), is another member of the family who has retained a close connection with the School as his

wife, Tracy, is the present Admissions Officer, and their daughter Georgina is in Year 10. Gerald's youngest son, Graham, came to Blundell's in 1974 from the now defunct Ravenswood School at Stoodleigh. In keeping with the family tradition, he has also given his children a Blundell's education – while George and Ellie have completed their studies, Bertie is in Year 10, and Freddie will be joining us in September from the Prep School. Janet Frankpitt, Gerald's youngest child and only daughter, became the first girl in the family to attend Blundell's when she joined the School in 1980 from Edgehill College, Bideford. At that time she was just one of 35 girls at Blundell's in the only girls' house, Gorton House. While at Blundell's Janet met Mark Wooff (M 77-82), and later in 1987 they became the first Old Blundellian couple to be married in the School Chapel. Janet returned to the School in 2008, when she was appointed the Administrator of the Old Blundellian Club. Further history was made when Janet and Mark's daughter, Katy, born in 1989, became the first child born to an Old Blundellian couple, and the strong links were maintained with their youngest son, Sebastian, being at Westlake from 2011 to 2013.

Although to date there have been just three generations of Frankpitts at Blundell's, no fewer than 22 of the family have been, or are soon to be, admitted as pupils, and three individuals are currently members of staff. One factor in answering why so many have attended Blundell's is that, unusually, the various branches of the recent family have not been dispersed far and wide, but have remained within a short distance of their origins. This has meant that all the members maintain close links with Blundell's, and often attend events here.

*Above: A Frankpitt Cricket team – many of the younger members of the family attended Blundell's
Far left: William Richard Frankpitt and Florence – the parents of Gilbert and Gerald, the first two Frankpitts at Blundell's
Middle: Gerald and Hazel Frankpitt and their children, who were all educated at Blundell's*



Recent events



Main picture: Current parent, Nigel Bishop gives Hamish Friend some advice on his experiences as a Property Search Agent in Devon.

Left: Guest Speaker David Fursdon relates some interesting moments in the property and agricultural world, including a call from the Prime Minister about Foot and Mouth Disease

Property and Agriculture Reception

Our event in October focused on professionals in the property and agriculture industries. Just under 100 guests attended this reception to hear from our Guest Speaker David Fursdon, a rural Chartered Surveyor who runs his own historic family property in Devon and carries out advisory work in rural estate management. Pupils gave our guests a tour of the school before they gathered to watch Blundell's 1st XV rugby team play Edinburgh Academy to a draw 22-22. Mike Sampson, the School Archivist, set up an exhibition of memorabilia which was thoroughly enjoyed by all over tea and coffee.

Many thanks to everyone who was able to attend. Carrying on from the success of the day we will be holding a Property and Agriculture Career Mentoring evening for pupils interested in these sectors on 10th March 2014. Please email us if you would like to be a mentor.



The Law

Career Mentoring Evening

Pupils interested in the law were invited to a career mentoring evening in November with top lawyers Nick Holt and James Bullock (P 81-86). Both Nick and James gave firsthand accounts of some of the highs and lows of entering into a career in law. OBs and parents who are able to give their time as mentors are encouraged to join the Career Mentoring Programme available on the Dev Office website.

www.blundells.org/devoffice/site/career_mentoring.htm

London Dinner

Oxford and Cambridge Club



Governor Barnabas Hurst-Bannister delighted our guests with humorous tales from his experiences as a Governor.

We were fortunate to hold our annual London Dinner at the Oxford and Cambridge Club last November by kind permission of Governor and Old Blundellian James Bullock (P 81-86). During the evening Nicola Huggett spoke about the recent achievements of many of our pupils. Following her visionary talk was the entertaining and humorous speech from current Governor Barnabas Hurst-Bannister. He delighted us with a few of his stories from his time as a governor and we are so grateful to him for taking the time to speak to us. Thank you to everyone who attended and we look forward to the next London Dinner!

Simon Munro (SH 80-85) and Julian Brown (P 80-85) speak with Second Master, Bart Wielenga.



The House of Commons Tour

Members of the Blundell's Community gathered in London in October for a tour of the House of Commons, by kind permission of Neil Parish MP for Tiverton and Honiton. We were delighted that a small cohort of current pupils studying Politics were also able to join us.

The reception commenced in the 'Strangers' Dining Room' which is aptly named for visitors to the House of Commons who are not 'Members', where we were welcomed by Neil and his team. Guests were treated to an exclusive insight into the workings of Parliament by Neil and his team who gave us all an impressive tour. One of the main aspects was the history behind the Palace of Westminster which included many links to Blundellians! Guests were also able to visit the Jewel Tower which was one of only two buildings from the medieval Palace of Westminster to survive the fire of 1834.

Many thanks to all our guests who were able to attend and a special thanks to Neil Parish and his team for this informative and exciting visit to the House of Commons.



Above: Tony Austin (OH 78-83), Sarah Champion (GH 82-83) and Alex Brownlow (GH 81-83) at the House of Commons.



Above: Gorton House Reunion 82-83 in the Beale Centre Right: Jessica Lampard and Jessica Diplock exchange photos and memories of their time in GH

GH Reunion

Jessica Diplock (GH 81-83) decided it was time to get her peers from Gorton House back to Blundell's for a reunion. The group had lunch in the Beale Centre with the 1st XV playing Millfield on Big Field in the background. It was the first time that many of the OBs had seen each other since school. Many happy memories were exchanged especially during an afternoon tour of GH. They would like to extend a big thank you to Debbie Hosking for taking the time to show them around GH.

Old Blundellians are welcome to use the Beale Centre and are encouraged to organise their own reunion with the help of both the OB Club and Development Office.

In attendance were Alexandra Brook (nee Brownlow), Sarah Bull (nee Champion), Jessica Diplock, Juliette Flanagan (nee Clarke), Sarah-Robin Hunter (nee Ellis), Jessica Lampard, Jessica Mannix (nee Grose), Tracy Rowe, Diane Wheller (nee Henson), Rebecca Wood and Miranda Hawkins (nee Larcombe).





Germany Dinner

Dusseldorf, Germany

Blundell's has been fortunate to educate a number of international pupils including those from Germany and for this reason we decided it was time to host another dinner there. More than 30 Old Blundellians, current and past parents attended the reception at Dusseldorf which was kindly organized by Christian Busch (SH 88-89). Our guests were welcomed by Nicola Huggett and she gave an exciting overview of the events and projects taking place this year at Blundell's. Following Mrs Huggett's welcome, we were treated to a delicious dinner and many of our guests took the time to reminisce about memories of their time at School and, of course, meet new friends from the Blundell's Community.



Top: Old Blundellians Nadine Engel (nee Raeder) (GH 93- 94), Bettina Simon (nee Schäfer) (GH 85 - 86) and Nina Belke (nee Schieferdecker) (GH 85 - 86) **Right:** Old Blundellian Mirco Nicol (SH 92 - 94) and past parent Axel Burckhardt

Hare and Hounds Race

Old Blundellian runners represented the School at the annual Hare and Hounds Alumni Race in London. Giles Stimson (NC 60-65), Mark Norton (M 80-83), Justin Reynolds (SH 86-91) and Will Holland (P 86-91) all competed for the team ranking Blundell's at a respectable 16th place in the competition overall.

We are also pleased to report that all the runners broke their personal time targets! Runners (both alumni and supporters) are encouraged to join the team for the next race when it's our intention to beat local rivals Wellington School.



Giles Stimson (NC 60-65), Mark Norton (M 80-83), Justin Reynolds (SH 86-91) and Will Holland (P 86-91) represented Blundell's School with some Christmas spirit!



Old Blundellians in Tokyo

Above: OBs after lunch at the Anglo American Club, Tokyo **Right:** Hiro Azuma, OB Japan squash champion, enjoying a drink with other competitors.



Various events for OBs, past parents and friends of Blundell's were held at the American Club in Tokyo in October.

Shinnosuke Okabe (OH 93-98) acted as host at the American Club and the first OB Tokyo Squash competition took place with Hisahiro Azuma (P 91-95) winning comfortably. Hiro played 1st XV rugby at Blundell's and gained a place at Keio University, a Japan Oxbridge equivalent, became Japanese Universities Squash champion and now runs the family business in Naro City.

Evening entertainment was provided by Kazuko Watanabe who has provided Blundell's with 25 Japanese students over the last 30 years. She hosted an eclectic feast in a pub style Japanese restaurant. The following day Shin Okabe's parents gave OBs lunch at the Club. Please contact Paddy if you would like to be put in touch with Japanese OBs.

Congratulations to Akako Karli (nee Kano NC 95-97) on her recent marriage in Switzerland and the birth of her daughter.



Winter Lunches

Guests enjoy Tim Courtenay's talk at a winter lunch

Winter lunches continue to be very popular with between 25 and 35 attending on the second Wednesday of each month and enjoying talks by a wide range of speakers. Thanks to Mike Daniels (P 45-59) for chairing these events. Particularly popular this year was Tim Courtenay (OH 54-59) speaking on the Oman Scouts and dressing up to make points! We are always looking for speakers, particularly ladies. Please contact Janet or Paddy if you are prepared to talk for 10 or 15 minutes on a subject of your choice.

Blundell's Community

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 2014

- 7th Big Band Concert in aid of Tiverton Museum,** Big School, 7.30pm
Contact: Main Office
- 8th Annual Veteran's Russell Race** Blundell's School, 3.15pm Open Run Start or 4.00pm Fun Run Start.
Contact: Development Office
- 10th Property and Agriculture Career Mentoring for pupils,** Beale Centre 6.15pm - 8.00pm.
Contact: Development Office
- 12th Winter Lunch,** Speaker Bart Wielenga on 'Educating for Character', Beale Centre. *Contact: OB Club*
- 14th Pig Racing Event in aid of Barbados Cricket Tour,** Prep School at 7.00pm. *Contact: Main Office*
- 15th Blundell's Unplugged in aid of the Devon Community Foundation,** Big School at 7.00pm.
Contact: Main Office
- 21st OB Sports Weekend** (Hockey at 6.30pm, Fives at 5.30pm) followed by refreshments in the Beale Centre. *Contact: OB Club*
- 22nd OB Sports Weekend** (Football, Netball and Squash at 2.00pm) *Contact: OB Club*
- 22nd Blundell's Community Black Tie Dinner,** Guest Speaker Robert Kitson, rugby union correspondent for the Guardian. Big School, 7.00pm.
Contact: Development Office

APRIL 2014

- 8th Hong Kong Community Drinks Reception,** The Foreign Correspondents Club from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. *Contact: Development Office*

MAY 2014

- 8th National Trust Arlington Court Reception.**
Contact: Development Office
- 15th Legacy Lunch** at the Oxford & Cambridge Club, King Edward VII Room London.
Contact: Development Office
- 15th London Drinks,** Venue TBC, from 6.00pm to 8.00pm.
Contact: Development Office
- 22nd-24th Devon County Show,** with a Cheese & Wine Reception on 22nd from 12.30pm to 2.30pm.
Contact: Development Office

JUNE 2014

- 5th-7th Royal Cornwall Show,** with a Cheese & Wine Reception on 5th from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.
Contact: Development Office

- 13th OB Dinner** - an event exclusively for OBs, *Places strictly limited. Contact: OB Club or Development Office*
- 14th OB Day,** Chapel Service followed by Lunch, Blundell's Marquee at 11.00am and informal evening supper.
Contact: OB Club or Development Office
- 15th Celebrity Charity Cricket Match,** Big Field from 12 noon. *Contact: Development Office*

JULY 2014

- 2nd Henley Royal Regatta Reception,** Henley-on-Thames, *Places strictly limited. Contact: Development Office*
- 4th Speech Day & Old Blundellian Parent Lunch,** Beale Centre. *Contact: OB Club*
- 26th Mid-Devon Show.** *Contact: Development Office*

AUGUST 2014

- 23rd-25th Old Blundellians & Family Camping Trip,** Blundell's School. *Contact: OB Club*

SEPTEMBER 2014

- 6th 1970s to 1980s Gaudy/Reunion,** Big School at 12.00noon. *Contact: Development Office*
- 13th Parents' Fair, Big School.** *Contact: Development Office*

OCTOBER 2014

- 8th Winter Lunch,** Speaker John Stuart (SH 1949-54) on 'The Clapper Bridges of Dartmoor'. *Contact: OB Club*
- 18th Accountancy and Finance Reception,** Big School at 12.00noon. *Contact: Development Office*

NOVEMBER 2014

- 12th Winter Lunch,** Speaker Brian Lett – Author and parent TBC. *Contact: OB Club*

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Please visit our website for more information
www.blundells.org and click on Development Office or OB Club