



Blundell's

DIARY

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE BLUNDELL'S COMMUNITY

ISSUE NO: 17



Building Character



2014/15 Full Colours

Top row (L-R): A Hoek (Hockey), E Nash (Academic and Music), J Eaton-Jones (Hockey), R Carew (Music)

2nd row: B Charles (Academic), J Maunder (Rugby), I Hydleman (Rugby), G Bricknell (Netball), T Wardle (Rugby)

3rd row: R Southwick (Art), P Thomas (Netball), A Robertshaw (All-Rounder Sport), G Dart (All-Rounder Sport), B Reade (Hockey)

Front row: J Perring (Academic), M Blackmore (Hockey), E Nelson (Music), R Zhao (Academic)

Absent for photo: O Mustard (Public Speaking), D Bess (Rugby)

Full Colours

The distinctive black, red and white striped blazers, known as 'full colours', worn at Blundell's is bestowed on those pupils who have achieved a level of excellence. Full colour status can be attained by being outstanding in one activity, or by demonstrating an array of talents in a range of activities but not necessarily excellent in any single one (yet many pupils are!).

'Colours', with a red and black blazer, were first mentioned in 1879 when awarded to all members of the 1st XV, and in the following year to the 1st XI. The recognisable blazer, in the same colours as today, was from 1893 the sole privilege of the 6th Form and the 1st and 2nd rugby and cricket teams. Another perk shared with monitors was that full colours could walk around with their hands in their pockets except during class.

In the 1930s the blanket award of full colours to the 6th Form and team members ceased. Boys had to earn them! Slowly, and often reluctantly, excellence in other sports, aside from rugby and cricket, began to merit full colours - by the 1960s athletics, cross-country and shooting were included, and an exceptional performer in other sports occasionally was granted the high status.

In more recent times the monopoly of sport in awarding full colours has been broken, and now a pupil can be awarded their full colours for Drama, Music, Academic ability, as well as each of the various sports, and as an All-Rounder.

Mr Mike Sampson, School Archivist

Front cover: Blundellians enjoying their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme expedition



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.

Blundell's School
Tiverton
Devon EX16 4DN
Tel: 01884 252543
E-mail: info@blundells.org
www.blundells.org

HEAD'S INTRODUCTION



As I approached the portage in the pouring rain on Good Friday this year to watch the first of our determined crews through the lock on the Kennet and Avon canal on the first day of their 125 mile canoe marathon, I knew I was witnessing true character. I was watching it in the shapes of Francis Huntingford

and Dougal Glaisher, who went on to win the Schools class of the Devizes to Westminster canoe marathon, more than an hour ahead of their nearest rivals. Character is required in these toughest of physical and mental challenges, where you have to push yourself to the limit and even beyond that, knowing you can go there again if you have to. That is what depth of character can mean and the confidence it can give. I know all the DW crews recognise that and the large numbers of pupils signing up this year is evidence that this is valued and desired by others too.

In addition to the rigours of physical challenges like the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Ten Tors and the like, character and resilience come in many forms and several of these are celebrated in this new issue of the Diary. In the School House curriculum and the diploma that celebrates its subsequent completion, we often talk about resilience and character. What a privilege it was, as you will read, to have Colonel Kevin Oliver, Commandant of the Royal Marines Commando Training Centre at Lympstone, speaking on this subject to our Years 7 and 8. Recently too, Rob Baxter, Head Coach of Exeter Chiefs, spoke eloquently about the values of friendship and teamwork that underpin all the physical and mental challenges of professional rugby in the premier division. You will read too about the mental character required of those who seek to perform at their best in the academic sphere and also in the Creative Arts at the highest level. There seemed no first night nerves on show at either the amazing Spring Concert or A Midsummer Night's

Dream, though performance in front of an audience takes great courage and character all the same.

There are so many variants to the idea of character and therefore it might seem difficult to define and even more difficult to teach. Yet, as I hope you will enjoy reading in this issue, I believe the building of character is what underlies every element of a Blundell's education and therefore permeates through everything we do. You cannot live, study, work or grow up in this wonderful School without learning something about your own character, what you find hard and what you need to do to meet those challenges. Then you look around you to find the support to help you do just that.

What builds our character as a School? That is the easy question: it is the friendship, loyalty and consideration for others that make our community so strong and that builds character within us all. The graduate world beyond School is a competitive one – more so now perhaps than it has ever been. What is the necessary quality required by every employer? It is without doubt a depth of character and an understanding of one's own strengths and weaknesses, alongside the ability to match that self-awareness with the skills to address them. The challenges beyond School are well known and sometimes feared by those who leave our tight knit family, even with the terrific academic results that speak for themselves. Most of our leavers say they will miss being a part of the Blundell's Community. However, rarely if ever, do I meet a Blundellian in a new walk of life who does not feel they gained the 'Roots' and 'Wings' they needed whilst they were here to face their futures head on.

I am pleased and proud to say there is real evidence both in this issue of the Diary and elsewhere of the fact that the building of character comes as a consequence of everything that is taught and learned here. The character of a Blundellian is to 'Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value' (Albert Einstein). As always I extend my grateful thanks to all those who have contributed to this; to pupils, supporters, parents, staff and Old Blundellians. Thank you for the part you have played and continue to play in the building of characters worthy of this School and its historic reputation.

Nicola Huggett

Nicola Huggett
Head

Blundell's News



Chemists go far

In the finals of the Royal Society of Chemistry's National Schools' Analyst competition, the team of Natalie Cotton, Beth Squires and Chris Hamilton were awarded the runners up prize. As reported in the last Diary, they qualified earlier this year by winning the regional round. The final was held at the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen where the team were up against a pool of 20 other schools, all of whom had won their respective regional competitions. Mr Mead, head of Chemistry, said that the team showed immense skill, application and teamwork to finish above the 398 schools that entered the competition

back in January. The RSC awarded £600 to Blundell's Chemistry Department and certificates and £30 in Amazon vouchers to the three pupils.

Natalie and Chris have also been shortlisted for the 2015 Student of the Year Awards, a national programme to recognise talent and hard work and celebrate success. They are in the Science and Engineering category against four other students and are the only pupils from the West Country to be shortlisted for any of the eleven categories. The awards programme is backed by the government and business community and the winners will be announced later this month.

Exam results

Blundellians achieved some excellent exam results during the summer. In the A levels, 41% of the results gained were A*/A, 69% of pupils achieved A*/B grades and 87% gained A* - C grades. Almost a quarter of the year group achieved three grade As or better at A level. The four pupils who had offers at Oxbridge secured their places to study Medicine (Ed Nash and James Perring), Law (Ben Charles) and Mathematics (Run Zhao), while Frank Thornton-Wood will also be studying Medicine at Imperial College, London. Other popular university destinations included Durham, Warwick, Reading, Bristol, Leeds and Manchester.

In the GCSEs there was a 30% increase on last year in the number of A* grades, with an A* rate of 26%. More than half the year group gained the highest grades with an impressive A*/A score of 54% and nearly 40% of the year group gained 8 A*/A or more.

More details can be seen on the exam results page on the Blundell's website.



DT Department successes

Three Blundell's pupils were successful in the North Devon Manufacturing Association's annual Schools Technology awards. Curtis Pitts was the winner of the 16-19 age category for his eco chicken feeder while Emily Beckett was highly commended for her dress made from veneers, kindly supplied by Mundy Veneer. In the 13-16 category, Charlie Mallinson was commended for his upcycling project which re-used lever arch files for storage. At the award ceremony, which showcased the rich manufacturing culture in the area and some of the rising stars in engineering education, Curtis was presented with a glass trophy and £100, while Emily and Charlie received framed certificates. Emily's dress will be showcased by Mundy Veneer at the 100% Design Show taking place at London's Olympia.

Meanwhile, Francis Huntingford, Bertie Frankpitt and Hugh Hamilton-Green have been awarded full Arkwright Scholarships in Design Technology. These scholarships are awarded to high calibre students in Year 11 throughout the UK after a rigorous selection process; the aim of the scheme is to identify and inspire future leaders in Engineering and Technical Design. For three pupils from one school to be awarded Arkwright Scholarships is a significant achievement.



Top: Emily and her dress made of wood veneers

Above: Curtis with his trophy



The Tiverton Literary Festival organisers and winners, including some of the winning Blundell's pupils; middle row, second from left Jack, Cara and Luca

Literary Festival

Several Blundell's pupils successfully took part in the first ever Tiverton Literary Festival's short story competition on the theme of medieval life. The standard of entries was high and Cara Read won the Year 9 - 11 category with both Trixie Nicolson and Jack Armstrong-Jones coming second. Luca Kemp and Alastair Johnson-Ferguson received special mentions for excellent story telling. The winning stories were published in a paperback. The School was the venue for another Literary Festival event, a Talented and Gifted Writing Workshop which a number of Blundell's pupils attended with other local schoolchildren.

IEA intern

Tom Hare was awarded a place on the Institute of Economic Affairs' internship programme during the summer. The week of work experience in Westminster is open to only 25 sixth formers nationally. During the week, Tom attended lectures, took part in discussions with expert economists, visited Parliament, listened to talks from people in academia, politics, and the Treasury about career opportunities. At the end of the week he took part in a debate with fellow sixth formers and thoroughly enjoyed his experience.



Carols at the Cathedral

For the first time in many years (and possibly the first time ever) the School's Christmas Carol Service will be held in Exeter Cathedral. This will enable many more of the Blundell's Community to enjoy the School's musicality and in a very special setting. The service will be on 4th December at 2pm; more information will be sent nearer the date.

Photo courtesy of Exeter Cathedral

Food and Craft fair

The Tiverton Friends Group of Children's Hospice South West will once again be holding a food and craft and gift fair at Blundell's. Last year, around £4000 was raised for the charity at the fair and it is hoped that this year's event, on Saturday 24th October (10am - 4pm) will raise even more. It is taking place in Big School and the Dining Hall; tea, coffee and cake will be available all day, with a light lunch in the middle of the day.

STOP PRESS: Tom Rainey (FH 02-07) Atlantic rower (see page 33) is giving the Gorton Lecture on 22nd April.



Keep up to date with Blundell's news on Facebook, Twitter and the website



The team preparing to compete at Bisley

Blundell's takes on Bisley

For the first time in more than ten years, the shooting team represented the School at the prestigious Bisley Festival. Will Scripps, Redmond Sanders, Will Curtis and Edward Rees were competing against the best adult shots in the country in the national small-bore shooting competition. This was very much a learning experience for them but their positive approach and cheerfulness was widely commented on and their presence was much appreciated by the Magpies, the Old Blundellian shooting team, who have fielded a veteran team for more than 40 years.

The Young Enterprise team's new venture is to sell greetings cards made by the Laos community. The team invested profits made last year to buy the cards, which were brought back by Mr Menheneott when he visited as part of the Laos project in July (see report elsewhere in the Diary). As Courtney Nation demonstrates, these are beautiful cards showing high workmanship - and are also made of processed elephant dung (treated and smell-free)! Appropriately, some of the profits from the sale of the cards will go to the next fundraising initiative to buy an elephant for the Laos community that the School is working with.



Building character

From the outset, let's be very clear on one thing: Blundell's has been doing 'Character Education' for a very long time. A lot longer than the newfangled term 'Character Education' became prominent in the broader educational conversation. So why then an issue of the Diary dedicated to a topic already well-rehearsed in our corner of Devon? Is it just Blundell's belatedly getting on the bandwagon? Perhaps a more important question to ask is what we actually mean by 'character education'. Once we have clarified that then the reasons for paying more attention to it than before may begin to make sense.

Indulge me if you will in a little analogy. As a teacher, analogies are a popular tool of the trade and they can add depth and texture to an otherwise 2D explanation. I hope the analogy will bring clarity as to why the sudden emphasis on (and impetus) in character education exists.

For many years career success - perhaps even 'life success' - has been defined by a relatively narrow set of measures. It may have

been assumed that life is like a highway; a straight smooth road and the people who go the furthest on it, who achieve the greatest success, are the ones who drive their vehicles harder and faster than anyone else. Success is determined by the size of the engine, the heaviness of the foot on the accelerator, the endurance - and the bravery to drive fast! All along the motorway we find the wreckage of blown out engines; drivers who through fatigue lost concentration, or simply people who lost their nerve and who pulled over and opted out. Some people chose to drive at a more sedate pace, taking fewer risks and who got some way along the highway but never as far as those with capacity and derring-do.

This version of life is plainly an oversimplification but in some ways, in investing in private education, we as parents hope that our children will develop engine size - or capacity - endurance in the form of perseverance and the necessary confidence to keep the pedal to the metal for longer than anyone else.

Those are not of themselves bad things to wish for except that life, as most people who

live for long enough will vouch for, is not a smooth straight highway.

Life is far more likely to resemble an ocean. The conditions swing from tempestuous mayhem to glassy docility. The craft needed to master and succeed in these conditions is a far more sophisticated and subtle thing than that required to conquer the motorway. The craft we are looking to design is one that needs to be attuned to the conditions and is highly adaptable. It needs sails that can harness the gales and resist the storms but which will also be sensitive to capitalise on the lightest breeze. It needs to be able to tack across the winds and to go against the current. There will be times this craft covers many miles in a matter of hours and other times when weeks of zigzagging against the winds, the tides and the currents appear to be entirely fruitless. The destination is not always clear and the obstacles and conditions are entirely unpredictable. That is life and that is what we need to prepare pupils for.

Character education at Blundell's is about preparing pupils for the sea, not for the open road. **Mr B Wielenga**

Testing yourself for charity



Last year, Blundellians raised more than £20,000 for charity, often by challenging themselves in some way and with a generous and optimistic spirit. Here are a few examples.

It was a colourful day for a group of Gorton House girls on the Rainbow Run in aid of Children's Hospice SW - they were showered with powdered paint along the 5K route and raised more than £660 in sponsorship for the charity.

For the fourth consecutive year, The Pink Ladies (seven North Close girls and five members of staff) took part in the Race for Life (this year in Plymouth). The atmosphere was inspirational and the girls (and staff) ran brilliantly. They exceeded their target of £1500 and are all hugely grateful to everyone who has helped them raise so much for Cancer Research UK.



*Izzy presents a cheque for £500 to Lisa Colcutt, Chairperson of Exeter Crohn's and Colitis committee
Photo by Freya Slack and Annabelle Hibberd*

Before a fundraising quiz in aid of Crohn's and Colitis UK, Isobel Phillips (Year 12) gave a very moving speech in Chapel about how ulcerative colitis had affected her since the age of 11; it's a brave thing to do to stand up in front of other students to describe some of the symptoms of this illness. Her speech galvanised those who took part in the quiz to give generously and £500 was raised as a result.



‘...the CCF challenges pupils with leadership roles unlike any other in the School.’



The Combined Cadet Force is part of the wider family of Ministry of Defence sponsored cadet forces, comprising of the Sea Cadets, Army Cadet Force, Air Cadets and the Combined Cadet Force. Together, there are approximately 140,000 cadets across these four groups, supported by 26,000 adult volunteers.

The Ministry of Defence describes the Combined Cadet Force as ‘a disciplined organisation in a school so that pupils may develop powers of leadership by means of training to promote the qualities of responsibility, self reliance, resourcefulness, endurance and perseverance’; as the MOD description emphasises, whilst the CCF uses military based training and activities, the purpose of the organisation is to foster and develop personal attributes, rather than military skills.

The CCF Contingent at Blundell’s fully supports these aims, and it is these valuable attributes which the School aims to foster through each pupil’s membership of the Contingent during their compulsory service period in Year 10. In particular, the CCF aims to help develop the quality of resilience through placing pupils outside of their comfort

zone in a safe and controlled manner. This could be as simple as having to spend a night out ‘in the field’ under a self-constructed shelter, or could be the greatest challenge of the CCF - leadership.

The development of leadership skills is a key feature of the CCF, and the CCF challenges pupils with leadership roles unlike any other in the School. Not many sixth formers, for example, will need to be able to motivate and enthuse a group of cold, wet Year 10s into going on a night patrol at 11.00pm in the middle of Dartmoor, but this is the sort of challenge often faced by a Cadet Non Commissioned Officer, and those that succeed have learned skills which will serve them well in any career that they choose to follow.

If our training aims could be summed up in one sentence, it is ‘To develop the personal character of a Blundellian through a range of exciting and challenging activities which are run in a safe and controlled manner’. I urge all Blundellians, and particularly those about to go into Year 10, to consider what they can gain from their time with the CCF and use the opportunity to the full.

Mr I Wynell-Mayow



The BBB Cup

Hatty Nash on the Russell

Love it or endure it, the Russell is a test of courage, determination, friendship and support for each other, whether you take part in the Open or the Fun Run (and the memories of those muddy runs will stay with Blundellians long after they have left School). Alongside the winners of the trophies for the various age categories, there is the high accolade of winning the Berry Barker Balance Cup, which is awarded to the runner who has made the most spirited effort and improvements in their fitness over the year. For 2015, the BBB Cup was awarded to Hatty Nash for regularly putting in extra effort and her inspiring passion and focus.



Colonel Oliver with two of the appreciative audience

Resilience

Years 7 and 8 had the privilege of hearing Colonel Kevin Oliver, Commandant of the Royal Marines Commando Training Centre at Lympstone, speak about resilience when he came to Blundell’s in the spring term. Colonel Oliver enthralled the pupils with tales of sailing and rowing with a fellow Royal Marine in a tiny open boat through the Northwest Passage across the top of Canada, battling with an Arctic storm, dragging their boat through broken pack ice for ten miles and close encounters with grizzly and polar bears, whilst showing how the isolation and stress shaped the bond between the two men. Through his talk, Colonel Oliver illustrated some important messages on resilience and inspired the pupils to ask some searching questions.



A Character Marathon



Top and top right: Dougal Glaisber and Francis Huntingford
Middle: Tabi Unsworth-White and Austin White
Above: The paddlers and their support crews

This year saw Blundell's Canoe Club take on the Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Marathon for the first time after a break of four years. The DW (as it's commonly known) consists of a 125 mile slog along the Kennet and Avon canal and the Thames, finishing at Westminster Bridge. The race was started in 1948 and has run over the Easter weekend every year since. The Blundell's teams entered the junior and junior/veteran classes which involves four days of racing. However, senior K2 crews who are brave enough can enter the 24 hour race. It is widely considered as the hardest canoe marathon in the world, and mentally and physically tests the paddlers and the support crews, who have the onerous task to shadow the boats, to provide encouragement, spare kit, boat repairs, fluid and food during the race. Competitors must carry their kayaks around a total of 77 locks which provides opportunities to meet with their crew. Roughly a third of all crews who take part drop out every year. Training has taken place over the last School year, coached by external athlete, Mr Taylor-Ross.

Day one began with a light drizzle and kit scrutinizing similar to that on Ten Tors, during which we applied Vaseline to chafe-susceptible areas. Laden from a large restaurant meal the night before, we were waved off by a few parents. The first day's 34 miles went past uneventfully as it was the exact same course we had done for a practise race in the weeks before. After arriving in

Newbury, we reserved a large space for our tents as we were one of the first to arrive. The mobile massage parlour was an odd sight as both sexes stripped from the waist up and lay down to have a painful sports massage. Thankfully hot showers were available to wash before an afternoon meal and bed.

Day two began painfully as we waited for our allotted start lines, incredibly stiff from lying on partially deflated roll mats. A breakfast of porridge, dried fruit and seeds was enough to energise us for a second day of paddling. We started to the blast of the Mayor of Newbury's air horn. The days racing took us through Reading, where we met an unyielding headwind. Our spirits were further dampened by an unfortunate portage that resulted in a freezing swim.

Day three saw the blister blighted Blundell's crews set out for their longest day yet - the interim finish line a distant 38 miles along the Thames in Teddington. The prospect of another brutal day's paddling and the feeling of today's menu of 'fresh off the stove' porridge palpitating around our stomachs was far from encouraging. However, never to be downhearted, the team was spurred on by the morning sunshine and the prospect of just 13 portages.

For six hours we followed the widening Thames as it meandered past Windsor Castle and the historic town of Eton. As always, today's race tactics were key to saving energy and we all experienced boats paddling past, giving us the opportunity to surf their 'washes'.

‘Day three saw the blister blighted Blundell’s crews set out for their longest day yet - the interim finish line a distant 38 miles along the Thames in Teddington.’



We finished the day feeling elated but promptly collapsed in our tents, exhausted after the long day.

Day four, the final day on water commenced at the early hour of 2.00am in order for the teams to race down the Thames to coincide with the tide at its strongest. The campsite was a hive of activity as everyone rushed to pack up and get their kayaks inspected before the 5.00am departure.

We lowered our boat into the icy water of a lagoon and watched the torches on the front of each boat cutting through the bitter night air, creating an alluring image. From hectic start lines of around 40 boats we raced along the Thames under the veil of darkness, bridges the only indicator of the distance travelled. Even at this early hour, the wakes of river traffic put our balance to the test and resulted in many crews falling in. For me, the endearing (enduring?) moment of DW, and one that is engrained in my memory, was paddling around the final bend to see the Houses of Parliament illuminated golden by the morning sunshine as Big Ben struck 7.00am and, below it, the finish line surrounded by our weary supporters who had helped us along the way. A challenge completed, probably not to be repeated!

By Dougal Glaisher and Francis Huntingford (Year 11)

The other paddlers in the DW were Austin White, Laurenz Hoek, Oliver Hall-Tomkin, Cormac Oliver, Jenny Mettam, Lola Watt and Tabi Unsworth-White



Rob Baxter in mid lecture

The Gorton Lecture

The inaugural Gorton Lecture was given by Rob Baxter, Head Coach of Exeter Chiefs, organised by the Development Office and attended by many Blundellians (especially the rugby players), Old Blundellians, staff and the wider community. Rob spoke of the friendship and teamwork which has helped the Chiefs to success and of leadership, as Tom O’Brien reveals.

It was a very entertaining lecture with various outtakes from the Rocky movies and Coach Carter to illustrate how to develop the skills needed to be a good leader. Rob also went into great depth sharing his experiences as Head Coach of Exeter Chiefs. He explained the techniques he used as a coach to get the best out of all his players, including setting a motto of ‘Having a go’. As Chiefs sit in second spot in the premiership table, it is clear that the ‘give it all’ attitude he instigates is worthwhile. Rob also gave us a small insight into the analytical side of being a Head Coach. He showed off his computer skills, proving that it takes more than just working on the pitch to be a successful coach. After the talk, Rob then answered some interesting questions from the crowd and participated in debates such as concussion in rugby today and whether he would take the England Head Coach role. Everyone at the lecture left with a new knowledge and respect for leadership.



The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

I began the process of completing my gold Duke of Edinburgh Award (D of E) in September last year. I have completed my bronze and I really enjoyed the whole experience so I decided to take on gold. There are five parts to Gold D of E: volunteering, skills, physical, residential and expedition. As a member of the charity committee, I decided to use my experience in that to organise future charity events for the volunteer section. I am a keen photographer so for my skill section I decided to take part in a photography master class after School every week to further my knowledge and competence. For the physical section, I chose to do cross country running and have come to really enjoy it.

For the volunteering section you have to be volunteering consistently for 12 months, for the skills six months, the expedition for three nights and the physical section for 18 months. For the residential section, you have to stay at an unfamiliar place with new people for four nights and five days; this allows you to really immerse yourself in other experiences which are out of your comfort zone. I haven’t yet decided what I will do for my residential but I am interested in learning a new language.

I have just completed my practice expedition on Dartmoor, which went well, and our real expedition is in the Brecon Beacons [see photo above]. I think that D of E helps you develop many skills such as leadership and determination; it will be an invaluable experience going into the workplace and at university. I hope to complete my Gold D of E by the end of next year.

India Huggett (Year 12)



Blundellians demonstrated true grit and resilience on the field day in spring, when undeterred by snow, rain, hail and (a little) sunshine, they cheerfully carried on with various outdoor activities including tree planting at Knightshayes

Spotlight on the MFL Department

According to various studies, learning a foreign language can improve your decision making skills, increase your brain power, enhance your employability and help you become more open-minded. All these benefits come about because the brains of people who are bilingual operate differently to those who only speak one language. Then of course there is the sheer pleasure of discovering and becoming immersed in new cultures when you travel abroad because you understand what is going on around you; it's been said that 'language and culture are two sides of the same coin.'

At Blundell's, all pupils learn French in Year 7 and have taster sessions at the end of Year 8 to introduce them to German and Spanish so they can choose which to take up in Year 9. All pupils study at least one foreign language to GCSE level. How does the Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Department encourage pupils to learn and enjoy these languages so that they can gain from all those benefits listed above? These pages show just a few examples.



Enjoying the language course

Barcelona Trip

In spring, a group of Y10 and Y11 Spanish pupils headed with the choir to Barcelona to embark on an intensive language course combined with cultural activities, which included supporting their fellow pupils' impressive concert at Gaudí's famously unfinished cathedral, La Sagrada Familia.

The pupils were lucky enough to be enrolled on a bespoke Spanish language course in central Barcelona, tailored to the demands of the IGCSE course. The course, run by experienced native speakers, focused on speaking skills and authentic communication and all the instruction was given in Spanish, as it is for IGCSE. As well as practising their presentations and general conversation questions, pupils were given guidance on their accents, pronunciation and intonation which also contributes to their overall speaking mark. The IGCSE speaking and listening exams took place in the first week back after the Easter holidays and there is no doubt that the Y11s felt better prepared and more confident.

The Y10 pupils also benefitted from undertaking a language course with the Y11s,

as the fast paced lessons demonstrated the high standard required at IGCSE. However, as the course was designed by the language school with their level in mind, pupils were familiar with the majority of the topics covered and were able to show how much Spanish they can already understand, having only been studying the subject since the beginning of Year 9!

When not grappling with verb conjugations and adjectival agreements, the pupils were able to relax and enjoy a wide range of sights: Camp Nou and the accompanying FC Barcelona Museum, Las Ramblas, a hike to the monastery in Montserrat, the aquarium and, of course, La Sagrada Familia. Pupils were also interested to see the bilingual nature of Barcelona, with streets signs in both Castilian and Catalan, which introduced to them the current political issues of modern day Spain where an increasingly powerful Catalan Nationalist movement is never far from the front page.

It was an extremely rewarding and enjoyable trip and plans are already underway for a future journey to Spain!



Language Day

Earlier this year, the MFL Department invited Year 6 pupils from local primary schools to take part in a 'lip dub' day. The aim of the day was to understand a French song, *Je te donne* by Jean Jacques Goldman, learn the lyrics and lip sync the song in groups around the school grounds. There was a lot of hard work to first understand what the song was about using dictionaries and prior knowledge of French. Then pupils were given part of the song to perform!

The pupils were very enthusiastic and enjoyed learning a language in a different way. At the end of the day, we all gathered in Big School to see the video and check the other groups' dancing and singing skills. It was also a great opportunity for the teachers involved to show the different ways languages are taught at Blundell's.

French press

For La Semaine de la presse et des médias dans les écoles (the national week for press in school in France), the Year 9s studying French teamed up to create their own front page of a newspaper. In the light of what happened in Paris in January, the focus this year was freedom of speech. This was a good opportunity to discuss in class what makes a good and interesting newspaper and what our students felt that they needed to include in their work. In a very short time frame, they worked extremely hard to produce excellent quality headlines and articles in French, together with weather forecasts, adverts and even their own sudoku puzzles.



The Pen Pal Letters

The French pen pal initiative has continued with pupils in Years 7 and 8 writing to their counterparts in France. Having a pen pal in another country fosters social skills and gives pupils the opportunity to learn about different cultures and enjoy another mode of communication other than the internet.

"It is really exciting to receive a letter all the way from France and we have all enjoyed writing letters in return. Our French has improved as a result of writing regular letters and it is a fun and interesting way to learn about schools in France." Alice Lilley (Year 7)

"The pen pal letters are a great opportunity to socialise with French pupils of our own age. Everyone looks forward to receiving their letters from our new friends! We have learnt a lot about them over the year and their English, like our French, has been improving the more letters we write." Lara Clarkson (Year 7)



Language Plays

The MFL department was lucky enough to secure three bookings with the highly regarded Onatti Productions Ltd, whose actors came to perform plays in both French and Spanish over the course of the spring term. Year 9 watched both *Erreur d'Identité* and *¡Fuera!* which provided them with a linguistically and culturally enriching opportunity to view theatrical performances at School. The students willingly participated in the plays, helping the characters with the props and even taking on parts within the play. Prior knowledge of the language wasn't necessarily needed, as Archie Morris demonstrated when he nobly got up to help out with the Spanish play, despite not having any previous experience of the language!

Years 7 and 8 were also lucky enough to watch a performance of *The World's gone French!* which was performed in both French and English. Years 5 and 6 from the Prep School joined us for the play and the students were all eager to participate. Years 7 and 8 were given the opportunity to have a question and answer session with the two actors at the end, with some very interesting and some unusual questions being asked in both English and French.



French Camp

*The group near Mont St Michel
Below: Getting into the spirit of the
French themed evening*

In the summer term, 55 Year 8 pupils, accompanied by five staff, left Blundell's for four days of adventure, activities and frog's legs in France! The group were to be based at Chateau Beaumont, in the countryside near Mayenne, on the Normandy boarder.

We spent our first day in very hot Paris, visiting the Eiffel Tower and enjoying a wonderful open top boat trip along the Seine complete with informative audio guide. We arrived at the chateau in the early evening and all the pupils got excitedly settled into their dorms. Pre-bed chocolat chaud went down very well.

Saturday began with an early rise to visit the beautiful market town of Laval where the pupils got an opportunity to practise their French. Bags of delicious red cherries were bought, local cheeses and saucisson tasted. The afternoon was spent back at the chateau where pupils did a range of activities: archery, zip wire, swimming and a blindfolded obstacle course through the woods. After a quick change into 'French themed night' attire, it was into the dining hall to enjoy cuisine de grenouille and escargot.

Sunday was yet another packed day; pupils were treated to a tour of Mont St Michel in the morning followed by a dip in the sea and a bit of sunbathing in Saint Malo. The talent show

that evening could have given the X Factor a run for its money...not a buzzer in sight as pupils sang, danced and strutted their stuff. The staff's contribution (an even funkier version of 'Uptown Funk') composed and arranged by Mr Fisher was ecstatically applauded by the pupils. The excitement of almost getting home was slightly diminished by the announcement of a ferry staff strike at Calais; we had all just got through customs and were about to board! After a night in a hotel, we headed off at 3am for the port of Caen, with a new ferry booking in hand. Almost 24 hours late, a weary set of travellers arrived back at Blundell's. A Year 8 camp no one will forget in a hurry.



German Trip to London

Year 12 pupils studying German travelled to London to visit the Languages Show and the Royal Academy of Arts. At the former, you can find out about language courses and materials and register with employment agencies. There were some big employers there, including the European Commission, MI5 and the Army Intelligence Service, and various language schools where you can apply to teach English in your year abroad or as a career.

The Languages Show was a really valuable experience. We managed to talk to lots of different people about options for studying abroad, revision and vocab learning techniques as well as all the possibilities learning a language can bring. Then of course there was the taster Japanese lesson we sat in on!

We then made our way to the Royal Academy of Arts to see an exhibition of the work of German artist Anselm Kiefer. His early paintings about the Second World War gave us a valuable insight into his thoughts about its aftermath. We found much of his work very poignant and, at times, shocking.

Both busy and varied, it was a very successful trip which we thoroughly enjoyed.

By Hatty Hickman and Natalie Cotton



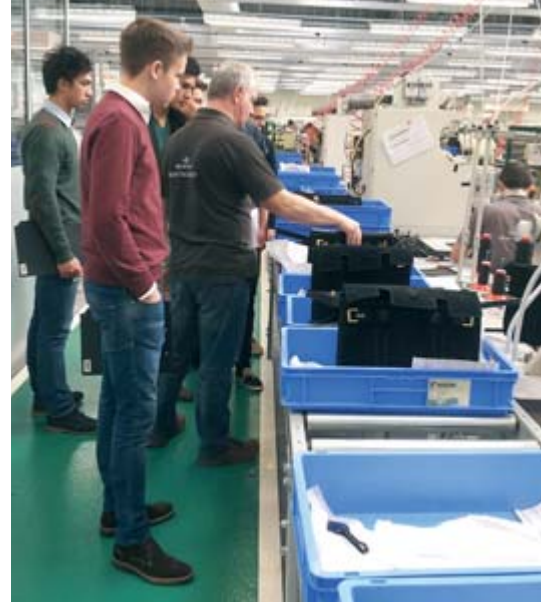
In and Out of the Classroom

The Year 9s at the NEC Birmingham

Go4SET

This year's two Year 8 Go4SET teams entered their projects into the Big Bang SW Competition at Exeter University in the summer. They spoke impressively about their projects to panels of judges from industry and their enthusiasm came across for all they had learned and put into practice. Both teams were highly praised and Team B - Oliver Leyshon (Team Leader), Seb Farrant, Zoe Labdon, Tom Greenfield, Alice Smith, Harry Charlesworth and Oscar Voysey - won the Go4SET prize for Innovation, partly due to their thoughtful development of their project into a business plan! The teams were supported by engineers from Mouchel and the DT Department helped with the models.

Meanwhile, a team of five Year 9 students presented their Go4SET Engineering project at the National Science and Engineering Competition finals at the Big Bang Fair at the NEC Birmingham. The team were put through from the last year's Exeter heat of Big Bang and made up only 10% of entries across the country to be invited to the final. The pupils - Rory Bateman, Marcus Lloyd, Jack Olive, Ed Olsen and Will Spencer - did a great job talking to judges, guests, school pupils, teachers and representatives from industry about their project; the number of visitors to the event across the two days was estimated at 40,000. The team also had a chance to enjoy many of the interactive company stands and attend lectures on innovative Science, Engineering and Technology. They even managed to get a selfie with gadget show presenter Jason Bradbury who was presenting at the award ceremony and a celebrity judge. The boys were great ambassadors for the School and had a truly memorable experience attending this prestigious event.



Inspecting bags at the Mulberry factory

Business to Business

Fourteen Business pupils visited two very successful companies in Somerset earlier in the year - the Mulberry factory and the Clarks European Distribution Centre. At Mulberry, pupils were given a fantastic tour where they walked the production lines of the £24,000 handbag. They saw cowhide, goatskin, ostrich leather and alligator skins which are used to make Mulberry goods and were shown the complex manufacturing process of turning these expensive raw materials into high quality, luxury products. It was a fantastic insight into a British manufacturer who had re-shored production from Asia and they were very fortunate in being able to chat at length to the factory manager. At Clarks, the students were guided through a distribution centre the size of 16 football pitches. It was largely automated and was storing six million pairs of shoes at the time of the visit.

STEM projects



Year 8 put the M in STEM with their brilliant Maths project displays and presentations at the end of the summer term. Parents and teachers were invited to the Maths Department and enjoyed asking the teams to explain their projects. The judges found it very difficult to decide on the winners as all teams were impressive; Mrs Olive was particularly pleased with the enthusiasm and effort shown by Year 8 especially as they were so tired from their trip to France (see Spotlight on the MFL Department pages). Unfortunately some teams had members missing but the judges made their decisions based on what they saw and heard on the day.

Best Communication, judged by the Mouchel Engineers

Team C for their 'Tile Spacers' Project: Will Kennaugh, Grace Labdon, Luli Mountbatten, Jessica Taylor and Sam Willder
Best Team Work

Team H for their 'Counting Squares' project: Henry Dyke, Mattie Hudson, Kata Lee, Guillaume Richer, Jack Swain and Oscar Voysey

Most Mathematical Content, judged by Mr Rivett

Team D: Harry Charlesworth, Poppy Davenport, Seb Farrant, Tilda Huntingford, George McIntyre and Oliver Squires

Latin for new learners

The Blundell's Classics Department is very keen to develop links across the local community; bringing Classics to all. In the summer term, Mrs Milne spent five weeks delivering hour long sessions at Upwold Primary School, working with a mixed group of Year 5 and 6, introducing them to the delights of Latin and the Classical World. The pupils absolutely loved the sessions and learnt how to greet each other, how to ask 'Who are you' and reply with 'I am...' and about nouns and adjectives. They also found out about the Roman army in Britain and most sessions were finished off with a Greek myth.



The English Department organised an Extreme Reading challenge for pupils to find and photograph the most unusual setting in which they could read be found reading books. The winning entry was this photo from Francis Huntingford – and yes, he is upside down!



All about the bees

As a post exam project, 7P learned about bees from Colin Wellard, a retired teacher who is part of the Devon Bee Keeping Association. The class were treated to an insight into the life of bees - learning that drones are there purely to fertilise the queen and die once they have done so, that honey is technically bee 'vomit' and that all the worker bees are female! Mr Wellard brought along a hive and bee suit explaining how you can minimise stings from bees by avoiding their paths back to the hive. In the second session, 7P discussed why the population of bees is declining and the potential catastrophic effect on life itself were they to die out entirely. The end was positive however, with a number of simple remedies that are already in action to combat the problems: more wild flowers, less monoculture and preserve the hedgerows.



Natalie receives her prize from Dr Catherine Seville and Dr Sam Lucy at Newnham College

Writing about Science

This year I decided to write an entry for the Newnham Science Prize, an essay competition run by Newnham College, Cambridge. Out of the five different titles, I chose to write on the topic of 'The Challenges and Motivations of Space Exploration'. This was something that, although I had an interest in, I knew very little about. However, I had seen a YouTube video about the possibility of mining asteroids for precious metals and raw materials such as water that could be used to make rocket fuel, and I thought this would be a really interesting topic to write about.

I really enjoyed finding out about what I think will become a very important industry in space exploration. I also made points about the scientific experiments that can only be made in space and that exploring new planets may be necessary for the long term survival of the human race. I then went on to discuss the challenges, such as the effects of microgravity and high doses of radiation on the human body, the importance of infrastructure being in place in making space travel affordable, and the communication problems that the effects of general relativity would cause.

Writing the essay was a highly satisfying yet extremely time consuming process, so I was thrilled when I received a letter from Newnham telling me I had earned third place out of 107 entries. I was invited to a prize giving ceremony which was held in Cambridge at the end of June, where I met one of the Director of Studies for Natural Sciences for the college. Overall I have found this a very worthwhile experience and I would encourage anyone, regardless of subject area, to get involved in competitions such as this.

By Natalie Cotton (Year 12)



The L6 team of Economists

Economists' success

The annual Institute of Financial Services Student Investor challenge attracted 86 Blundellians, who battled the financial markets for eight weeks. The goal of the trading game was to make as much money as possible with the aim of your team having the portfolio (shares and cash) with the highest value at the end of the trading period. Every team started with £100,000; 22 teams made a profit, seven made a loss and, fortunately overall, after fast trading and negotiating, trading hurdles such as plummeting oil prices, as a School we were up! A team of L6 Economists comprising of Henry Hunt, Cam Seymour, Eddie Gardner and Tom Hare made £10,134 to beat U6 Economists Evie McBarnet, Jack Maunder and Harry Bloomfield in the dying stages of the competition. Tom Hare described Cam Seymour's magical closing trade as bullish beyond belief as he happily collected his ten trillion dollar prize money.

Team Bonding



Prior to the new academic year, the School monitors took part in a day of team building activities. The day consisted of a team treasure hunt, using cryptic clues to solve the puzzle in the grounds of Ashcombe Adventure Park,



followed by a more demanding physical challenge which tested individual and team ability to negotiate a variety of obstacles. During the evening, the group prepared a three course meal for the Head and Second Master with minimal ingredients and cooking facilities, followed by camping out. It was an excellent 24 hours during which the monitors showed great spirit throughout.

The monitors are Chris Hamilton, Emma Jackman (Heads of School), Arthur Friend, Georgie Scott (Deputy Heads of School), Eleanor Ansell, Sophie Bateman, Jethro Clark, Rory Clark, Edmund Leung, David Loader, Henry Mules, Ben Oliphant-Thompson, Alice Smith and Tabi Unsworth-White.



TIPS FROM THE TOP

Last year's Heads of School, Tom O'Brien and Millie Blackmore, were asked to contribute to an article in Country Life magazine about their roles. For the benefit of this year's Heads of School, Chris Hamilton and Emma Jackman, and all future Head Boys and Girls, here are their words of wisdom.

What are the main perks of being Head Boy/Girl at Blundell's?

Tom: I would say the greatest perk is the experience you gain from doing the job. I have learnt a lot about responsibility and management. When I started as Head Boy I thought I had to do it all, but with experience you learn to delegate roles and smaller jobs that you simply don't have the time to do, or you don't have the knowledge on the subject or topic. There are also visible perks such as different coloured ties, shoes and, of course, the Head Boy chair in Chapel.

Millie: The feeling of being picked for the role itself is an honour and one that I will keep with me for life. It has also taught me to relish opportunities: for example, public speaking and forging new contacts. I now know how to take leadership and delegate tasks responsibly; skills that will be useful throughout my career.

What are the downsides?

Tom: I would be lying if I said it wasn't hard. There is a lot of work to be done each week. Most of my free time is spent in meetings with the Head and the Deputy Head, but I also have School council meetings and meetings with the other School and House monitors. I check emails every five minutes because staying connected with everyone is key. Potentially one of the biggest challenges is dealing with your own year as they are your peers.

Millie: Tom and I have meetings with the Head and Deputy Head every morning except Wednesdays and Saturdays, which means earlier wake ups, but that is something that is part of my routine now. Having to sometimes forgo opportunities or activities which I would usually be a part of due to prioritising my responsibilities and tasks can be difficult at times.

What would be your top tip to an incoming Head Boy/Girl?

Tom: Don't think you can do it all by yourself. I say this because you have a whole monitor team picked by the Head to help you and they are willing to help, so use them when you can. Also set short term realistic goals for you and your monitor team, complete small parts of the year at a time.

Millie: Learning to communicate from the onset - if you feel under too much pressure make sure to speak to teachers, the Head and friends as they will be willing to help and negotiate deadlines etc. Along with communication, delegation of tasks is also key. I often use the Deputy Head Girl to take some tasks off my shoulders.



Blundell's Laos Project

The first group of Blundell's pupils travelled to Laos in the summer as part of the School's ongoing initiative to work with Community Learning International (CLI), which promotes village based projects that have a positive impact on education, water and income generation. The twelve Year 11 pupils and the School as a whole has raised more than \$12,000 to fund this year's project which was to help provide a dormitory for 80 girls at a school in Nong Khiaw so they could continue their education, giving them much improved opportunities for the future.

While they were in Laos, the Blundell's team were instrumental in putting the final touches to the dormitory by painting the exterior. This was more challenging than you would expect, as they were painting in temperatures of 36 degrees, in high humidity and monsoon rain. The team also visit many remote villages by boat and on foot, delivering books and writing equipment; many of the villages are only accessible by river and without CLI's library boat service the children would not have any books to read. In the Learning Centres the group were able to work with the children using learning activities they had produced in the period leading up to the trip.

However, it was not all work and no play! They were able to see and take part in many cultural events. Visiting the elephant sanctuary, swimming in waterfalls and kayaking and trekking were great ways to experience the country. The team of Imogen Bishop, Ed O'Brien, Tom Kennaugh, Catherine Ryan, Greg Cole, Lucy Walliker, Freddie Carew, Morgan Butler, Anthony Liu, Frankie Thornton-Wood, Christian Cabburn and Alix Mounbatten were great ambassadors for the School and will have an important role in passing on their knowledge and experience to the new team.

The inaugural trip was a success in many respects and much has been learned for future trips and projects. I hope that the stories and pictures brought back from the trip will inspire others to apply to join future expeditions. We look forward to creating a new team in the near future with a new project to buy ... an elephant! Mr L Menheneott

Left: The group and villagers on the Mekong River with learning materials

Right: Lucy Walliker paints the dormitory exterior - in the rain



Top: Morgan Butler and children looking at books on the library boat
Above: Ed O'Brien and Lucy Walliker at the elephant sanctuary



There is more about the Laos trip on
www.facebook.com/laosfundraisingproject



All musicians took part in the finale to the first half of the Spring Concert

The Spring Concert

More than 200 musicians took part in the Spring Concert in front of a sell-out audience. The event was absolutely stunning, with a huge array of musical variety and talent on offer. The students involved were extremely professional and received an enormous number of compliments from parents and staff alike. The first half featured all of the large ensembles and some wonderful chamber music groups as well as guest slots from the Prep School, ending in all musicians on stage at once in a massed rendition of the American Author's tune 'The Best Day of My Life', complete with marching military drummers and the School House Ukelele Orchestra. After some very tasty canapés we were then treated to a beautiful second half of vocal music in the Chapel, when choirs and soloists sang various pieces (including GH's Jess Harvie's composition), culminating in a captivating performance of Fauré's Requiem, including solos from pupils Emma Nelson, Kieran Smith and Edward Nash.

Music

Making music together

The School House orchestra visited Tidcombe Primary School during the summer term for a mass conductor-thon. Before the event, there was a joint workshop when the pupils learned about conducting an orchestra, identifying various instruments and explored different rhythms. For the mass conductor-thon, 180 Tidcombe pupils conducted the SH orchestra of 26 plus three Tidcombe brass players, playing five pieces they had been practising over the last few months.

The orchestral event was an opportunity for the two schools to work and learn together and be more adventurous in their music-making.

Photo: Freya Slack and Annabelle Hibberd



Evensong at Bath Abbey



The Chamber Choir travelled to Bath to perform evensong in the Abbey earlier in the year. The service was wonderful and the choir sung with delightful musicality, performing Bruckner as an introit, a psalm,

responses, an anthem by Whitbourne and harmonising the hymn. They were so impressive that they have been asked to return as the guest choir for a whole weekend of services next year. There were also some appreciative comments from the clergy and deputy wardens of Bath Abbey:

'Well drilled, musical, good sopranos, their chaplain acted as Cantor. They were confident and that enabled me to relax and realise that they could lead worship.'

'The singing was of a very high standard ...lots of people remarked on the singing after the service.'

'I was going to say that Blundell's were very good for a school choir, but that would be doing them an injustice. They could very easily be compared with a good adult choir and still come out near the top.'



Becky playing with the NYWO

During the Easter holidays, Becky Brinkley (Year 12) attended two courses as a member of the National Youth Wind Orchestra and the Somerset County Youth Orchestra. This is her report of her experiences.

The first course was the National Youth Wind Orchestra, which lasted for eight days. This was my first year with NYWO after successfully auditioning in November, so I wasn't really sure what to expect. I was playing 3rd clarinet, along with the fellow clarinettist who was the leader of the National Children's Wind Orchestra for two years which I was in last year; this was a great achievement considering that there are only around 65 players in the whole orchestra and the majority are either students at conservatoires, music colleges or study at conservatoire junior departments! We played a variety of pieces, including Grainger's *Marching Song of Democracy*, *Symphony no.2* by Frank Ticheli and a world premiere of a piece by Kit Turnbull for Wind Orchestra and Euphonium soloist called *Blue Rider*. Each piece was different and enjoyable in its own way, but my favourite piece was called *Bohemian Revelry* by Adam Gorb as it had many different styles of music in and was really fun to play. We also had the pleasure of working with and being taught by professional musicians such as Paul Harris, Rob Buckland and Mark Heron. This course cumulated in two concerts being held, one in Shrewsbury where our course was, and another in St John's Smith Square in London. Both of these concerts were well received and the course passed by in a flash!

A couple of days after the concert in London, I then had a course with Somerset County Youth Orchestra for four

days. This was the second course of the year with SCYO and we played some very complex repertoire, including the whole of *Symphonie Fantastique* by Berlioz, *Espana* by Chabrier and a piece called *Earth Cry* by Peter Sculthorpe, complete with didgeridoo. For this course, I played a combination of 1st clarinet, solo 2nd clarinet and Eb clarinet in the last movement of the Berlioz. Even though we only had four days to learn and rehearse this repertoire, we performed it at a high standard on the evening of the last day in Millfield concert hall. It was a great experience to perform such advanced repertoire, especially for some of the younger players as it was the first time they had played such complex works. Many of us had never seen a didgeridoo played before and didn't know that professional players existed; well they do! It was really interesting playing a piece with this instrumentation; *Earth Cry* is a very moving piece as it was written around 30 years ago warning us about what we are doing to our planet and the consequences. This is all the more poignant now as what the piece warned about is now happening. I enjoyed all of the music we played, but the piece I enjoyed the most was probably the last movement of *Symphonie Fantastique* as I was able to play the Eb clarinet and it is a very lively movement which was great fun to play.

Over both of these courses, I learnt a great deal and improved my musicianship greatly.



Singing in Montserrat Abbey

Singing in Catalonia

As reported earlier in the Diary, the choir and a group of Year 10 and Year 11 students studying Spanish travelled to Catalonia. During their part of the tour, the nineteen members of the choir were able to sing in some spectacular settings. Their first performance was a 30 minute a cappella concert to an appreciative and attentive audience at the La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona where the beauty of the architecture and the special atmosphere of the building made for a quite remarkable experience.

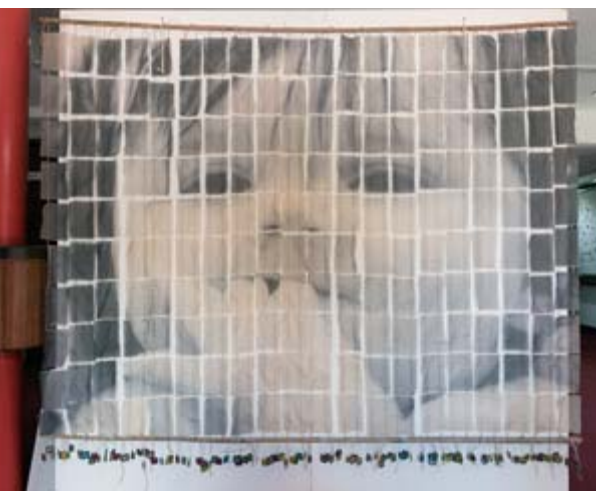
They travelled to the mountaintop abbey at Montserrat and, after rehearsing a little Haydn in the open plaza, performed inside the abbey to a full congregation of 600 people. The acoustic was rich, warm and beautifully reverberant, and the choir filled the building with superb performances of Bruckner, Tavener and Bortnianski. Day three centred on two performances in Barcelona Cathedral; on the way there, the students gave an impromptu performance of Bruckner's *Locus iste* on the metro! The 60 minute recital at the cathedral, given from the steps of the high altar, featured Haydn's *Missa Brevis*, the 'Litany to the Holy Spirit' by Old Blundellian Peter Hurford, Emma Nelson (Year 13) singing the mesmerising Handel aria 'Lascia ch'io pianga', and culminated in a full performance of Fauré's *Requiem*, including solos by Rosalie Sanders, Adam Soul (both Year 11) and Kieran Smith (Year 10). The group returned to the cathedral later in the day as the guest choir for mass in the beautiful Chapel of Christ of Lepant. It was fascinating to be involved in this Catholic service and the choir sang beautifully in a highly resonant acoustic; John Stainer's 'God so loved the world' in particular sounded spectacular, sung with great sensitivity to the demands of the space and liturgical context.

Other highlights of the tour included attending a performance of Mozart's *Requiem* in the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Palau de la Música Catalana, hearing the Barcelona Blues Big Band at the Jamboree Jazz club and a brief visit to Gaudí's incredible Parc Güell.

Dr O Leaman

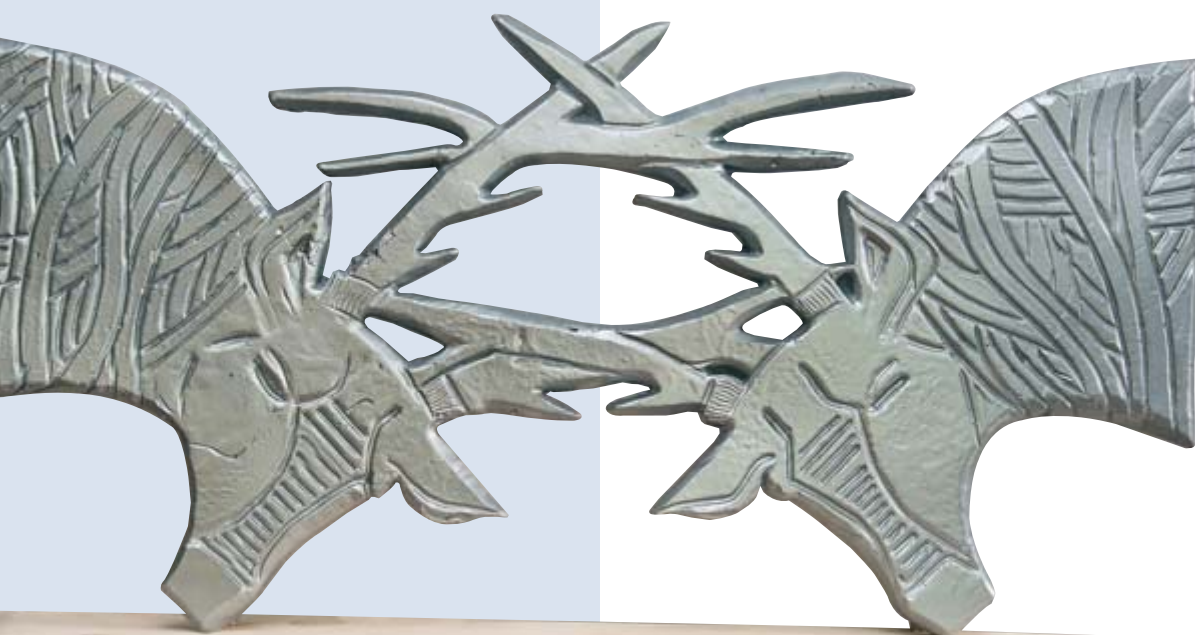
Far right: Rex Southwick (Year 13)
Middle: Katie Holdsworth (Year 13)
Left: Tabitha Pring (Year 11)

Art



Above: Georgie Frankpitt's GCSE artwork - made of tea bags

It has been a packed and creative year for the Art Department with a host of workshops, such as the willow workshop for the Special Art Status group, a Royal Academy Life Drawing Outreach session, trips, including one to Tate Britain and Tate Modern for the Year 10s, and, of course, some imaginative and highly accomplished work being produced, not least by Years 11, 12 and 13 for their GCSE, AS and A level coursework, some examples of which are displayed here.





Far Left: Rosie Hones (Year 11)



The summer term production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was performed by a talented cast of Years 9 and 10 and directed by Artistic Director James Rochfort.

The setting for the production was the Blundell's arboretum which was transformed into an enchanted woodland for three nights. This was the first time in many years that a School play has had an open air setting and fortunately (and perhaps with a little help from the fairies) the weather was fine on every night.

The fairies, led convincingly by Will McIntyre's Oberon and Flic Charlesworth's Titania seemed very much at home sneaking between the trees and peering over the grass bank, while Amelia Low's cheeky Puck enjoyed playing pranks on the mortals whilst riding a BMX. Featuring live, original music, composed by Emma Weaver and student musicians, the entire production was an exciting mix of genres from Bollywood to Marcel Marceau via Morris dancing (with audience participation) and a splash of cross-dressing as Nathan Hughes playing Bottom took on the form of a donkey and Barney Ames was frankly unforgettable as Thisbe!

The distinct characters created by the four lovers were particularly impressive. Harry Shaw's Hermia threw an utterly convincing strop when her love was spurned by Jack Watt's uber-charming Lysander who fought hilariously with the philandering Demetrius played by Victor Mills for the affections of the love-struck (and slightly neurotic) Helena played expertly by India Eaton. If all this sounds confusing, the cast carried their audience along as they told the story in a very engaging way. **Mrs T Winsley**



The next big thing

For the first time, the School House play and the Senior play is being combined into one large scale production with the performance of *Street Child* next January. *Street Child* is the gritty and moving story of one boy's journey through the streets of Victorian London and the founding of the world famous Dr. Barnardo's homes for children. It promises to be an incredibly exciting production with original songs written by the Music Department and a cast of more than sixty. More details will follow in due course.





Science Discovery USA



Top: The Visualization Suite in Boston
Above left: Lizzie Fearnley and Lola Watt behind the scenes at the Natural History Museum, New York
Above right: With Kevin Czaja at the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences in Boston
Right: An orang-utan on the O-line
Far right: Ben Oliphant-Thompson, ready for a tug of war with Batang the orang-utan



After the success of the 2013 trip, **Science Discovery USA** returned to Washington D.C., New York City and finally Boston, Massachusetts. This year we spent twelve action packed days away, finding time to fit in a number of world renowned institutions and to participate in some private behind the scenes tours, meeting some of the top researchers in their scientific fields as well as many of the more cultural and ‘tourist’ sights in each city.



Our first stop was the National Zoo in Washington D.C. Here, perhaps the most important and interesting animals were the orang-utans. They can use the ‘O-Line’, a set of ropes and towers running throughout the zoo connecting their two houses (the Great Ape House and the Think Tank) allowing them free movement between the two; this gives the orang-utans lots of choice and flexibility which keeps them both mentally and physically stimulated and enriched. We spent a lot of time near these fascinating creatures and were then very lucky to be able to observe a meta-cognition session that zoo researchers were conducting with an orang-utan named Batang in the Think Tank. Batang chose to visit for the session by travelling along the O-Line and worked carefully at her touch screen computer ‘game’ (the meta-cognition research programme) whilst being rewarded with grapes for her correct responses. Once her computer session was over she moved over to the ‘tug of war’ where she gave Ben Oliphant-Thompson a run for his money; we should point out that it was eight times harder for Batang to pull the tug of war rope than Ben and she could still move him easily! We were also able to spend time in the Amazonia Research Centre where we could observe work that is currently being conducted by the in-house researchers in a variety of different areas including marine, freshwater and rainforest biomes.

On day three at the Natural History Museum we visited the Hall of Geology, Gems and Minerals where we were able to handle meteorites, observe seismometers at work and view fluorescent rocks and minerals under ultra-violet light. Lizzie Fearnley was somewhat disappointed by the Hope Diamond, this 45 carat blue diamond with an estimated value of 250 million US dollars was simply ‘too small’.

Some students found their way to Q?rius, an interactive learning space which brings the items normally kept behind the scenes to students to observe, handle and explore. We were able to delve further into forensic anthropology by exploring bones and teeth, use computer technology to further explore DNA and examine the specimens of our choice from the collection of more than 6000 housed in the Q?rius centre. Some photography students even used this as an opportunity to work with their cameras to photograph the specimens for their upcoming A2 portfolio. Other highlights in Washington included visiting monuments and memorials on the National Mall, various museums, the White House and the United States Holocaust Museum.

Day four was by far our busiest day so far, with visits to Air and Space Museum, Crime and Punishment Museum, an old time American Diner and finally Escape Artist, DC. At the Air and Space Museum we were treated to a guided tour of the Space side of the Museum by docent Mr Mark Goldberg who was fantastic and most enthusiastic

about his area. He showed us space landers, orbiters and probes including ‘Columbia’, the command module from the Apollo 11 Mission which housed Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins during most of the mission and is the only part of the original rocket to return to earth.

Our first visit to the Crime and Punishment Museum was very successful; students were able to take part in a unique workshop where they worked to determine the cause of death of a man using tools learned in the workshop. It focused on the differences between blunt force trauma, sharp force trauma, lacerations, contusions and abrasions as well as the differences between self inflicted and otherwise inflicted events and used foetal pigs to observe the difference. Students were thrown off course before eventually reaching the real cause of death; suicide with a cover-up! After our blood spattered afternoon we headed to Ted’s Bulletin, a classic American Diner where we were more than happy to slip into the traditional diner booths and indulge in their delicious burgers, fries and ice cream laden milkshakes of all varieties. Next was an evening of mystery, Escape Artist, DC. Here we split into two groups before being locked (yes locked) into two rooms with the challenge of solving the puzzles set out and escaping the room in 45 minutes or less. Great fun had by all with a successful ‘Ho Chi’s Angels’ ranking second on the leader board for one room and the other group having success at exiting both rooms on



Ben Ames at Q&rius

time; a great end to our last full day in Washington.

On our first day in New York City, we visited the Discovery Centre at Times Square for Dr Gunther von Hagens human plastination exhibition, *Body Worlds: Pulse*, followed by an interactive quiz session with their education team. Dr von Hagen's impressive collection of human cadavers and body organs is uniquely designed to give students a full insight into what the body actually looks like three dimensionally. He demonstrates the outcome of various bad habits and stresses on the different parts of the body, from smoking, drinking too much alcohol and eating too much food through to the impact of stress, sport and other aspects of modern living. The education team spent time with the students at the end of the visit, creating an interactive quiz to test their knowledge and understanding of what they had seen and read within the exhibition.

Day seven took us to the American Museum of Natural History where we met with Saebul Choe, a Scientific Assistant within the Petrology department who was kind enough to take us on a behind the scenes tour of the department including preparing suitable samples through cutting and polishing before viewing the rock and sediment types under electron microscope. We then took time to visit a few of the many exhibits that the museum has to offer, including the not to be missed hall of dinosaurs before spending a couple of hours in and around Central Park. We took in many of the must do attractions in New York,



Whale watching at Stellwagen Bank, Boston

including the One World Trade Center, the 9/11 Memorial and Reflecting Pools, Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, Macy's, the Brooklyn Bridge and the Empire State Building.

Our first full day in Boston was phenomenal. We visited the New England Aquarium, where two of their Aquarist took students on a behind the scenes tour including the quarantine area, feeding zones, and veterinary area. This opportunity allowed students to see how the tanks are structured in their entirety and how each different species of animal is housed, fed and cared for. On our afternoon trip to the Stellwagen

Bank National Marine Sanctuary, we were treated to no fewer than six humpback whales playing and feeding at the surface of the water including two mothers and calves (one calf was completely new to the researchers so this was a rather exciting find).

Day eleven took us to the town of Cambridge and to Harvard University. A private tour with a Harvard undergraduate took us to the dormitory buildings, one of the seven libraries, Science building and some famous Harvard statues and architecture. We were able to hear all about the Harvard system, courses available and even some





Judit Lam and Izzy Phillips at the Lincoln Memorial

famous alumni. The afternoon took us to the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences where Kevin Czaja, the Curatorial and Research Assistant at the Harvard Mineralogical and Geological Museum took us to the basement of the museum where all the specimens are kept and gave a well rounded, engaging but nicely informal talk about some of the most exciting and most valuable specimens in the collection. In the department's Visualization Suite, we were treated to a 3D presentation looking at the various ways in which active faults and folding is explored and also the different ways in which this 3D technology can help with earthquake hazard assessment. This was followed by a remarkable (again three dimensional) presentation about the ancient Egyptian site of Giza, bringing the whole place to colourful life!

Our final day in Boston provided us all with some free time to explore the different areas of this wonderful city. Many headed over to the Science Museum bridging the Charles River, some took in the sites in and around Beacon Hill and Boston Common (following part of the Freedom Trail) and of course there was last minute souvenir shopping to be done. All in all, this was by far the best trip we have taken thus far and huge thanks go to Mr Smart, Mr and Mrs Batting and all of the students that participated in this trip for making it such fun. **Miss K Wilson**

Left: The group with tour docent Mark Goldberg at the Air and Space Museum, Washington

During the summer term, Year 9 historians travelled to the battlefields of northern France and Belgium. This is Rafe Oliver's report.



History trip

As we arrived off the bus in the morning of the first day we were very quickly taken to our first destination which was a museum about lots of different subjects of the war, but what took my interest was the wristband that, when scanned into certain items, could tell us about soldiers from our local areas and their own personal stories. We then had a look at the Menin Gate and found some Old Blundellian names on the wall.

After that, we had a fantastic roast and chatted until we were told to make our way back over to the Menin Gate for the ceremony when the Last Post is played, which was a truly touching ceremony for me.

The yearly visit to the chocolate shop that offered a wide range of treats discounted for us as Blundellians was a nice and tasty part of the trip.

The next day we visited a wide array of battlefields and graveyards; this was a highlight for me because when we visited the German graveyard, it was a very different type of graveyard which I have never seen before. Our tour guide was excellent and, as we travelled through these areas, the guide told us very interesting and moving stories about some of the people who were in the graves.

On the final day we saw a big hole in the ground which was a historic site where the diggers would make entire pieces of land shatter and crumble to destroy enemy camps and supplies. Then we had the service to present our plaque to the church [at St George's Memorial Church, Ypres, to commemorate OBs who lost their lives in the World Wars and other conflicts]. Soon after, on the last part of the trip, we saw a monument in honour of the people who died on the Somme, with a huge amount of names around the entire monument.

This was a fantastic trip and I hope next year's group have as much of an interesting experience as we did.



Right: Jonathan Lane as a doctor

The Year 11s had some fascinating work placements after their GCSE exams and over the summer holidays. From shadowing the campaign department at Greenpeace UK (Dougal Glaisher) to working alongside the CEO of Talent International preparing reports (Archie Fraser) and with the broker team in the offshore sector for Kennedy Marr Ltd (Hatty Nash), legal and compliance work with UBS (James Tierney-Jones), assisting with building surveying (Rosie Hones) and supporting career events for Escape the City Ltd (Zara Cameron), working with Team BMR engineers (Max Berry) and in the graphics office of the Royal Navy on design, modelling and animation (Hannah Le Gassick) and attending showcases for Q Talent (Imi Sanders-Dutton) and many more, they experienced a wide range of careers. Several Year 11s worked in the Dentistry, Medical and Veterinary professions and extracts from their reports are given below.



The world of work

Ella Davenport went on an Observation week at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital when she learnt about various health professional roles, attended lectures, took part in practical tasks such as taking blood pressure and spent a day on a hospital ward: 'I was shown round the bay I would be working on and introduced to the patients on the bay. The Sister I was shadowing and I then prepared a patient for surgery by taking her nail varnish off and taping up her jewellery... I then got to experience what it is like handing over a patient to the theatre staff. After this we did a drugs round and I learned about the different levels of nurses who worked in the ward and how important the housekeeping and cleaners were in the running of the wards. I also was able to put some of the things that I learnt in the infection control lecture into practice as I assisted in checking a patient for pressure sores.'

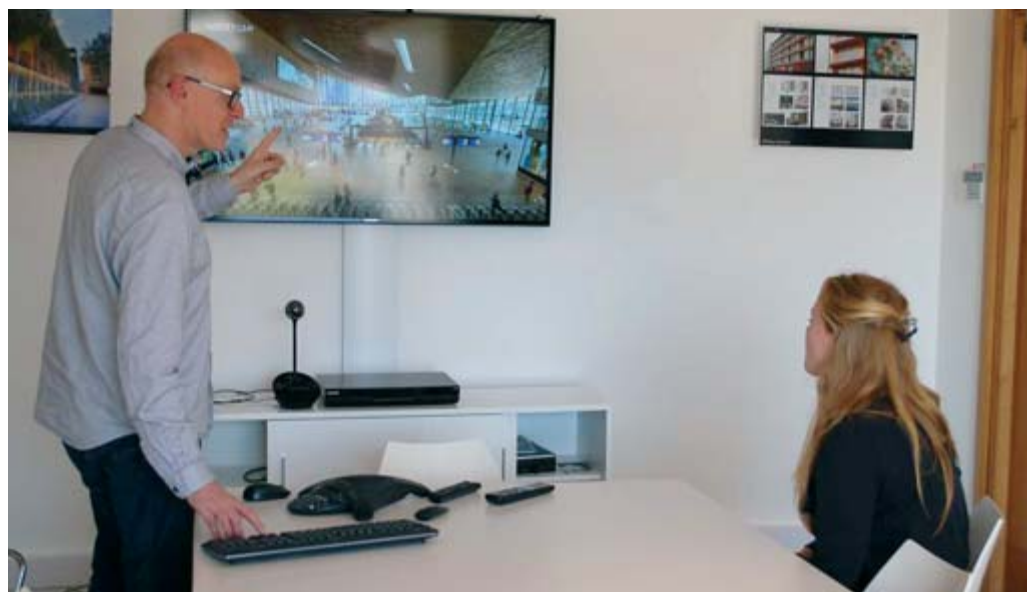
Jonathan Lane spent time in various hospitals, shadowing a range of medical procedures, including echocardiology, radiography and in the Urgent Care Centre but the highlight of his week was the time spent in surgery: 'It was fascinating to see surgery first hand and to get to understand the workings of the human body. I learned about the preparation process, and assisted with anaesthetising the patient. I was able to talk to the doctors and the surgical nurses to learn more about their roles in theatre. This helped to solidify my ambitions to work in surgical medicine, and hopefully will have provided me with a better understanding and ability to pursue these.'

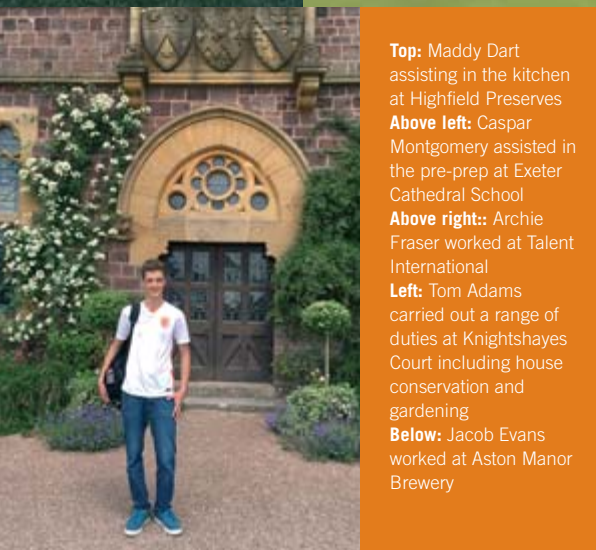
Toby Whitehead went to TDDS, a veterinary pathology lab, where samples taken from animals at vet surgeries around the country are sent to be diagnosed. He spent each day experiencing a different part of the work that TDDS do, including shadowing a cytologist and working in the main lab where samples are unpacked and biochemical tests are undertaken: 'The work I performed included unpacking and checking the samples sent in, and creating blood films to be checked under the microscope. Finally, the last day was spent in the microbiology and PCR labs. In microbiology, samples are tested to check for pathogens, such as bacteria and fungi. This included swabbing agar plates to produce cultures. In the PCR lab, machines are used to test for the DNA of microbes in the samples, to check if they are present or not. Here, I helped to produce the reagents needed for testing.'

Rosalie Sanders explored Dentistry as a career during her work experience week,

when she shadowed two dentists and a hygienist: 'I learned a lot about the general techniques and equipment used for procedures such as fillings, extractions and fittings for bridges, crowns and dentures, as I had expected. However, I was also given a valuable insight into the running of a private practice, and also the large differences between being an NHS dentist or a private one. The running of a practice is far more complicated than I had imagined; you even need a licence to play music in the treatment rooms! In addition to this, the cost of the equipment in each room totals about £40,000. I observed the taking and developing of x-rays, as well as the computer system which is used to analyse these effectively...I found the use of technology to further the treatment of potentially unseen or, at present, undeveloped oral problems fantastic, as it gives the patient far more comprehensive care.'

Below: Bethan Wesley working at LDA Design





Top: Maddy Dart assisting in the kitchen at Highfield Preserves
Above left: Caspar Montgomery assisted in the pre-prep at Exeter Cathedral School
Above right: Archie Fraser worked at Talent International
Left: Tom Adams carried out a range of duties at Knightshayes Court including house conservation and gardening
Below: Jacob Evans worked at Aston Manor Brewery



Brain Day

Lower Sixth Biology and Psychology pupils combined to take part in the third annual Brain Day. Neurologist and lecturer Dr Guy Sutton opened our eyes to the world of neurology and its different subsections; ranging from neurocriminology and psychopathology, all linked in with the anatomy of the brain. The first part of the morning focused on the different parts of the brain and its potential complications, the afternoon moved on to the dissection of a lamb's brain which the majority of people found interesting but for the few squeamish taking a step outside was necessary. The day was structured as that of a normal university day, giving everyone the chance to get a feel for the future. For me particularly the day was very interesting as it provided a glimpse into the world of neurology within medicine, something which I had never considered before! For the Psychology pupils, many case studies were brought to light along with a bigger insight into the biological approach of psychopathology offering them a chance to look at cases from another perspective.

Tabitha Unsworth-White Y12.



'...the day was very interesting as it provided a glimpse into the world of neurology within medicine.'

Sport



This year has seen the very successful re-launch of sailing. The Blundell's sailors travel to Exmouth to sail in the estuary where, with expert tuition from the instructors and use of the boats at Sailexmouth, everyone has improved their skills and worked towards the next level of RYA qualifications. Sailing at Exmouth has given us the opportunity to learn how to sail in a range of sea states, tidal currents at spring and neap tides and how to sail within a buoyed channel with a range of other craft using the same area.

Over the winter months, the Blundell's sailors went to Sea Sports South West based in Teignmouth and completed the RYA qualification for VHF Marine Radio use and the RYA Essential Navigation and Seamanship course. After Easter and back on the water, we prepared for the first interschool's regatta in about 20 years, at Wimblesball Reservoir. The team sailed against Wellington School in three races. Each race had a different course structure which meant the team had to use every point of sail in order to complete the course and use individual and team tactics to 'steal the wind' from the Wellington sailors. Some of our sailors had only been sailing for a few months and some had only sailed their class of boat once or twice before but that didn't stop true Blundell's grit showing through and all of them sailing at their very best. In the end Wellington won overall as their greater experience took control but we returned with the trophy for the best sailor of the afternoon, awarded to George Stubbs.

Plans for the future include more racing, RYA Competent Crew, Day Skipper and Power Boat qualifications and sailing larger yachts and hopefully involvement with the Tall Ships Race. Mr C Olive



Trixie, Lucy and Sam at the National Finals in Gateshead

There was another tremendously strong showing from our Athletics Squad this year and our reputation as one of the most competitive track and field outfits in the South West was maintained. This was highlighted in our meet in Taunton where we comfortably defeated our local rivals in every age group, boys and girls, except for senior boys, with Blundell's gaining 706 points, King's Taunton 406 points, Taunton School 393 and Wellington School 312.

In the 'Super 8' competition at Millfield we finished a creditable 4th, ahead of both Sherborne and Bryanston amongst others.

The School Sports Days were fiercely competitive as always and saw several records beaten. In the Senior Events, record breakers were Arthur Friend (13.6 Hurdles), Karl Still (4.33.4 1500m) and Ben Clarke (53.17 Javelin). Petergate dominated the track events and looked sure to topple FH for the first time in many a year when winning the relay, only to fall a few points short after the field events. GH narrowly won the girls' competition.

On the Year 7 - 11 Sports Day more records were broken, on what proved to be a scorching hot day, by Will Klinkenburgh (100m, 200m and shot), Milly Curtis (equalled HJ), Alex Gibson (LJ), Millie Holman (shot), Trixie Nicholson (Javelin)

and OH Yr 9 and 10 Relay Team. FH and GH were triumphant in the Intermediate overall and Amory won the School House day. The Victor Ludorum was awarded to Will Klinkenburgh (Senior), Oscar Kolowski (Intermediate) and Will Kennaugh (SH) while the Victrix Ludorum were Millie Blackmore and Lucy Walliker (Senior), Trixie Nicholson (Intermediate) and Rebecca Hamilton (SH).

Five athletes became Devon Champions, Ben Clarke (Senior Shot), Will Klinkenburgh (Inter Shot), Bertie Frankpitt (Inter 400m Hurdles), Sam Kennaugh (Junior Shot) and Trixie Nicholson (Inter Javelin). These five, plus Jake Smith and Mantha Unsworth-White then competed in the SW Championships.

Trixie Nicholson, Sam Kennaugh and Lucy Walliker all went on to the National Finals in Gateshead to compete in the Junior Girls' Javelin, Junior Boys' Discus and Intermediate Girls' High Jump respectively. Both Lucy and Sam competed well and Trixie overcame difficult throwing conditions to finish 3rd to receive the bronze medal. She also ran in the Relay, helping the Devon team secure a National Entry standard time. Her performances also contributed to Devon winning the Junior Girls' Trophy for B division counties.

Mr P Klinkenburgh

The Sports Dinner

The annual Sports Dinner, held to celebrate Blundell's sporting successes, was once again a popular event. Our Guest Speaker was Henry Olonga, a former Zimbabwean test cricketer. Henry first spoke about his story, providing the ideal platform for the occasion and then went on to inspire us as pupils. His main lessons were to remain teachable, to use the wonderful opportunities given to us as Blundellians and to always keep good old fashioned manners and values. He then treated us to beautiful

singing performances, my personal favourite being 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot'.

After the dinner, an auction was held in aid of Sporting Bursaries and projects at Blundell's, most significantly the Rugby and Hockey teams leaving for their South Africa tour at the end of July. A huge thank you must go to members of the Blundellian Community who donated the prizes and to those who bought them.

By Millie Blackmore (Year 13)



U16 Boys' Hockey

led by Ben Clarke, the Boys' U16 hockey team reached the West of England Finals for possibly the first time ever. The team only comes together for this National Schools' competition and consists of a mixture of Year 11 and 10 boys. Discovering that Paul Riegel in Year 12 was also young enough to play in the team was an added bonus.

Finishing in the top two in Devon is the first challenge and an outstanding display against South Dartmoor (1-0) meant that a draw with Exeter (0-0) enabled the team to progress to the West Preliminaries. In recent years, these



prelims have been as far as U16 teams have reached at Blundell's but the boys managed to go one step further this year, with the victory over Sherborne (4-2) being the highlight.

The performance against Sherborne gave everyone real confidence going into the West Finals held at Millfield at the end of February. Eight teams are split into two groups and matches are tough. Frustratingly, the goals simply dried up when we most needed them. Extremely tight encounters with Millfield (0-1), Canford (0-1) and Clifton College (1-1), and the subsequent results do not accurately reflect the quality of hockey that the boys produced. They outplayed some of the very best schools in the region for significant



periods of play and defended calmly when required. The other schools had to work very hard to get the ball past Hugh Hamilton-Green in goal and in the end it was a bit of a shame that the team were unable to progress further in the competition. They proved to be a highly competent and competitive team.

Mr G Bucknell

The U14s also reached the final of the U14 County Cup, beating Plymouth (4-0), Exeter School (3-0), Mount Kelly (3-0) and King's Ottery (4-0). Johannes Von Ofen was top scorer achieving a goal in every game. There were also stand out performances from Aran Dagwell-Spittle, George Vickery and Jake Le Gassick in defence. The team then went through to the West Prelims, where they beat Truro (3-0), drew with Monkton Combe (1-1) and lost to Sherborne (0-3), therefore narrowly failing to qualify for the Regional Finals. A great effort by the team, showing good potential for the future.

Top left: Archie Stoneman in action

Top right: It was hard for other schools to get the ball past Hugh Hamilton-Green in goal

Left: Paul Riegel

Riding

Blundell's equestrians have had some great successes this year, most recently in the Jumping with Style qualifier at Bicton Arena during the summer holidays, where they qualified to represent the South West in three of the four categories. Amongst other highlights were the team of Bird Wood, Georgia Wood, Didi Eaton (all Year 10) and Polly Muirhead (Year 8) winning the prestigious Inter-Schools Show Jumping competition at the Royal Windsor Horse Show against 29 other schools and Lola Watt (Year 12) flying the flag for Blundell's at the Mitsubishi Grassroots Championships at Badminton Horse Trials, where she was placed 20th from 83 starters - even more impressive as she was one of the youngest in her class.

The Blundell's team at the Royal Windsor Horse Show





The U14A team (missing from photo Helen Jackman)

Cricket

Blundell's cricket teams - all eleven of them - have had mixed fortunes this year but, as ever, matches have been played in good spirit and great enjoyment.

For the 1st XI, it was a strong season with wins against Millfield, Taunton School, MCC, Bristol Grammar, Queen's Taunton, Exeter School and Truro School. Unfortunately, due to poor weather, games against Clifton and King's Taunton had to be cancelled and in between there were disappointing losses against Filton Academy, Sherborne, Heathcoat CC and the Old Blundellians. However, overall it was a successful season which saw some fine individual performances. Captain Dom Bess led the side excellently and played a major part in the team's success. He was also the leading wicket taker with 17 wickets at an average of 18.76 and best figures of 4 for 30 while Dan Pyle (the 1st XI player of the year) was the leading runs scorer for the season with a total of 515 runs at an average of 39.62.

The 2nd XI attended nine matches, lost four, won four and applied for a moral victory over opponents who failed to turn up. The wins included the rare double of beating Sherborne and Clifton. The tradition of the 3rd XI Gentlemen continued with a fine group of young men playing cricket for the love it, in true Corinthian spirit with old fashioned values. This year, Oscar Mustard was appointed Captain, assisted in the field by Harry Dixon. The results of their three matches were very good, not that this particularly mattered as long as everybody had a fun and enjoyable afternoon, not least the umpires and opposition.

The younger teams (from U15A to U12B) had a number of matches cancelled due to the weather, sustained losses but also saw some good wins and notable individual performances. Many players demonstrated great potential and all showed great enthusiasm for their games. Players of the season were Mack Butterfield (U15A), Stephen Walton (U15B), Byron Knowles (U14A), George Gibbs (U13A), James Hutton (U13B) and Sam Pryce (U12A).



After an 11 hour overnight flight, we arrived in Johannesburg and immediately set off to our hotel high up in the Drakensburg Mountains. After an evening's rest (with the exception of a squad fitness session) we departed for nearby Michael House School where the rugby and hockey teams had their first full training sessions before the first fixtures of the tour the following day.

In their first game the Hockey girls went down 3-1 to a strong St Anne's College team, having been 0-1 up with seven minutes to go; however many positives were taken from a great performance. The Rugby team ran out 17-41 winners with a dominant performance over Voertrekker High School. Following on from the first fixtures we travelled to Durban and had a fantastic day at uShaka Waterpark and on Durban beach, ending with beach rugby and games. After this there was a tour of Kingspark Stadium (home of the Natal Sharks rugby team) where everyone met World Cup winning South Africa Captain John Smit.

It was then time for the second match of the tour, with both Rugby and Hockey playing Durban Academy. Both teams excelled with Hockey winning 0-9 and Rugby winning 7-54. However, the real highlight of the day was the Blundell's students playing games and touch rugby with the younger years of Durban Academy, in front of a huge crowd made up from the rest of the school. Blundell's was the first foreign school to visit the academy in more than ten years!

The Rugby team had two games against Hopefield High School, drawing the U16 fixture 17-17 before winning the U19 fixture 0-5 in what was a thrilling contest, and the game of the tour, against a very strong and physical Afrikaans school team. The Hockey team also had a very tense affair winning 2-3 against Fairmont High School, a great day of sport all round.

The following day the Rugby team secured their fourth win of the tour, maintaining their unbeaten record, beating Edgemoor High School 14-27 against a backdrop of Table Mountain. The Hockey team got their third win, beating Reddam House College 1-2 in a really close game. Whilst in Cape Town everyone had an eye-opening tour of Langa Township, a real insight into another culture,



Top: The Rugby team at Edgemoor where they won 14-27 Above: At Durban Academy – Blundell's was the first foreign school to visit in more than ten years

tasting some wonderful local cuisine and even joining in with playing some music.

On our final day we travelled to Robben Island for a historical tour of the prison and the island, learning about Nelson Mandela and his time there from an ex-political prisoner. The tour was rounded off in great fashion as we managed to watch Blundell's former first team Rugby Captain Jack Maunders play for England U18 v. France U18, a game in which he stood out and England won. It was a great way to end a truly amazing tour.

Mr J Fairclough



'Learn to get in touch with the silence within yourself, and know that everything in life has purpose. There are no mistakes, no coincidences, all events are blessings given to us to learn from.'

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross



Silent Retreat

One of the things about schools like Blundell's is the hectic nature of so much that we do. It's very easy to become caught up in the business of it all, so much so that we actually lose touch with something rather fundamental: ourselves.

Whilst of course I am not for one moment denying the importance of a full life and a myriad range of opportunities and possibilities, especially as far as the young are concerned, it is nonetheless the case that sometimes we need to take a moment to pause and to catch our breath for fear of suffocating.

Indeed at the recent National School Chaplaincy Conference we chaplains were once again all reminded of how significant our role is in establishing that concept of a 'still small voice of calm' within school life.

Silence is not alien to Blundellians. Sometimes in chapel we hold extended periods of communal quiet in place of a talk, or even prayers. We hold a Quiet Time hour every Tuesday evening in the chapel and the Lady Chapel may be used at any time for prayer and reflection.

I do believe in my Christian vocation and calling that actually the only place God will truly 'speak' is when we embrace silence. But whether you hold to the existence of a deity, or not, silence can have some profound effects.

Anyone who has seen Christopher Jamison's 'Big Silence' will know how life-enhancing its effects can be. In this BBC documentary series he takes a disparate group of individuals from different walks of life into silence. He exposes them first to silence in a monastery and then later into a retreat of no less than two weeks. Throughout we witness the psychological battles that ensue in each candidate. As they wrestle with themselves, and ultimately the buried personal issues that lie within, we witness, too, the changes that gradually transform every one of them. For all it is about acceptance.

And so with this background it was the case that I offered a silent retreat to a group of Upper Sixth. They had actually seen the 'Big Silence' and wanted to try it for themselves. That was an important starting point: they had to want to do it.

We opted for a retreat house in the grounds of Buckfast Abbey. Silence began after compline with the monks and ended thirty-six hours later after morning prayer. The only times a voice was heard was when the office was said and I offered some meditative reflections. We shared mealtimes together: how polite and thoughtful one becomes with one's fellow diners when you can't speak; everyone looking out for everyone else. The other curious thing is how aware you are of others in communal silence.

You would have expected that the solitary time would leave you forgetful of those around you, but somehow each other's presence becomes more significant. When we cease to hide behind words, the sheer physical and even spiritual nature of others becomes writ large. Indeed so does everything else. From the play of light and shadow on the walls as the morning sun streams through a window, or the sound of the wind outside, the rain, the fire, all somehow begin to speak in ways you would have never noticed had you been constantly in conversation as we so often are.

I exhort everyone who goes on these retreats to switch off their phones, to read only that which gives them the opportunity for reflection and to embrace the silence. Just sitting and doing nothing, going for a walk, just being and allowing the silence to speak to you is what it's all about.

Thirty-six hours is not really long enough to experience the full effects but it gives a taste of something else, something other. It is the key to bringing ourselves back together and of seeing a harmony in all things. We do have time to "stand and stare" if we allow ourselves to do so.

Blundellians don't have to be asked if they would like to go on a silent retreat, they are now asking me if I'll arrange one. Try it yourself sometime.

Reverend Tim Hunt

Welcome

I hope you have all had a good summer; we are looking forward to another busy term and some exciting events ahead. The first of these is our second Gorton Lecture in October, when the guest speaker is Ben Collins (FH 88-93), previously known as The Stig from BBC TV's Top Gear programme who will be giving a presentation and signing books. Earlier on in the day Ben is talking to 6th formers on 'Safer Driving'. We were very grateful to Rob Baxter of Exeter Chiefs who delivered a fascinating evening for our inaugural lecture; please see the article earlier in the Diary. Another forthcoming event is the Old Blundellian Dinner at CTCRM Lympstone, by kind permission of the Commandant (who came to speak to Year 7 and 8 pupils earlier this year about Resilience). There are more details about these and other activities in the following pages.

Looking back over the past few months, there have been many highlights. The 135th Russell Run saw many veteran competitors from the Blundell's community. Thank you to all participants for wholeheartedly throwing themselves into the demands of the Russell on such a hot day; we were absolutely delighted with the wonderful turnout. The sporting theme continued with the OB Sports Weekend a couple of weeks later and a very successful Sports Dinner with guest speaker Henry Olunga, who again entertained with words of wisdom and also some delightful arias. We were so impressed with his talent at the Celebrity Cricket last year and it was fantastic to be able to welcome him back to Blundell's. His talk was full of emotion and many members of the audience were moved to tears. A great fundraising evening for sports tours and bursaries at Blundell's and we are very grateful to the many donors of auction and raffle prizes.

We were fortunate to be able to hold a dinner in the Great Hall at Balliol College, Oxford, to celebrate the 400 year anniversary of the first Blundellian going up to Balliol. This was a wonderful occasion with the many attending enjoying a delicious meal and hearing OB and Current Governor Jessica Mannix talk about the connections between the two institutions and their famous alumni.

Following the success of the initial Battlefield Tour to the Western Front, a second tour to Normandy took place in May. Despite the emotion of the visit, when we were able to lay crosses on many OB graves, it was also highly enjoyable and humorous. Please see the full report from OB Chairman Paul Waterworth. We are currently planning our third tour; do let us know if you are interested in attending.

Our London drinks was very kindly hosted again this summer at the former In and Out Club in Piccadilly through the most generous support of James Goff (M 75-79) and Peter Sullings (past parent). It was a lovely summer's evening with live music being played at the pop up reception.

We had two overseas receptions this year. The first was in Jersey where we were delighted to welcome OB Gerald Voisin (FH 77-81) and owner of the department store Voisins; we encourage you to visit this fabulous establishment if you find yourself in Jersey at any time. We also met up with a few members of the Blundellian community in Nairobi whilst visiting Pembroke House School for the Ndume 7s tournament.

The Parents' Social committee continues to grow with new faces appearing at the various coffee mornings, end of term gatherings and other events. Details of these are in the calendar but the next one is on Wednesday 21st October. We will again be repeating the drinks reception during the fireworks evening later this year and hosting another disco in the spring term.

We are delighted to welcome Jessica Riley to the Development Office who may already be known to some of you as she is transferring from the main office.

Thank you for all your support and we look forward to seeing you over the next few months.



Amber Oliver

THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



Amber Oliver
Development Director
Tel. 01884 232324
Mob. 07825 734440
a.oliver@blundells.org



Jessica Riley
Development PA
Tel. 01884 243262
devoffice@blundells.org

Current Activities

An Evening with Ben Collins

Friday 2nd October 7.00pm - 8.30pm.

OB Ben Collins (FH 88-93) is better known as The Stig from the BBC TV programme

Top Gear, that anonymous and mysterious driver who, for eight years, kept an audience of 500 million viewers worldwide guessing as to his identity.

Ben is a champion racing driver in his own right, having won races across a diverse arena of Motorsport from the Le Mans Series to GT and Nascar. As a stunt driving expert he has worked on numerous Hollywood blockbusters including Batman, Fast & Furious and the latest James Bond movies. He has coached hundreds of celebrities, such as Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz, around the racetrack, though none of them ever saw his face. As The Stig, Ben was the benchmark of speed against which all other drivers set themselves and the man that everyone, including Formula One World Champions Nigel Mansell and Jenson Button, tried and failed to beat.

With all these accolades, as well as being a bestselling author and TV presenter, Ben has some fascinating

tales to tell. In October he is coming back to Blundell's to talk to sixth formers about 'Safer Driving' and during the evening he is giving the second Gorton Lecture about motivation, teamwork and inspiration; he thrives on living on the edge and his anecdotes of racing, crashing and winning reflect this. In addition, he will be signing copies of his latest book How to Drive and light refreshments will be available. Entry to the evening event is free and by pre-booked ticket only as places are strictly limited; please confirm your wish to attend as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Tickets are available from the Development Office.



Ben Collins also known as The Stig



The Chemistry department was one of the recipients of the Annual Fund

Annual Fund

We are very grateful to all those who have donated to the Annual Fund which this year has focused on Academic Enrichment. Many of the projects have now been funded, which has only been possible through your support; not all our initiatives can be funded by fee income alone and so involvement in regular giving to Blundell's plays a vital role.

Blundell's Memorial Garden

As a result of support from OBs attending the recent Battlefield tours, we are in the process of creating a memorial garden as a quiet area for contemplation for members of the Blundell's community. This will feature an oak tree grown from an acorn collected in Delville Wood, a sculpture made from World War materials and a replica of the plaque placed in St George's Memorial Church in Ypres as a tribute to the fallen OBs.

Corporate Opportunities and Business Directory



The support given by sponsors has been invaluable for many of the different activities and events that have taken place during the last year. We are particularly grateful to Darts Farm and Devon Fleet Components for their support of the Rugby and Hockey Tour to South Africa and also to Knight Frank and Mercedes-Benz South West for their main event sponsorship of the Blundell's One Day Event. We are currently producing information about the range of opportunities that exist at Blundell's which you may consider supporting during this forthcoming year; please do let Amber know if you would like more information.

The Hockey Team before the tour of South Africa, sporting their brand new kit sponsored by Darts Farm



The Business Directory continues to grow and many of the participants report a steady flow of uptake and interest in the services and products that they promote. If you have a business that you would like to promote to the Blundell's community both locally and further afield, please do contact Amber to register your interest, or download a form from the Development Office website pages.



Old Blundellian Day

Saturday 18th June 2016

Girls' sport has been chosen as the theme for next year and, although the day is in the planning stage at present, we hope as many girls as possible will come back. We would like to attract teams from over the years and welcome help from any girls to organise the teams and tables. We will be inviting staff who coached girls' sport over the last 30 years and look forward to having Hockey, Netball, Tennis and other sport tables as well as year group tables.

Please let the OB office know of any outstanding sporting achievements after leaving school, as we would like to establish a Roll of Honour. We are delighted to have secured Nicky Klinkenberg as President for the Day. Nicky has taught at Blundell's since 1997 (NC Houseparent 2001-2010 dates to be added) as well as being in charge of girl's games. As a Welsh National Hockey player on many occasions she is admirably qualified.



The Officer's Mess

Old Blundellian Dinner

Friday 27th November 7.30pm

By kind permission of the Commandant, an Old Blundellian Dinner is being held at the Officer's Mess, Royal Marine Commando Training Centre, Lympstone. The black tie dinner will cost £60 per person which will include pre dinner drinks, a four course dinner and half a bottle of wine, port and coffee. Addresses to be given by the Head Nicola Huggett and the Commandant, Colonel Kevin Oliver. The Royal Marine Corp drums will be in attendance. This promises to be a very special evening and OBs and partners should register their interest as quickly as possible with the OB office to reserve tickets.

Battlefield Tour Three



The plaque in St George's Memorial Church, Ypres

Following on from the success of the last two Battlefield tours led by Lt Col Tim Courtenay, we are proposing to run another tour from 9th to 13th May 2016. The tour will take in a number of key places and battle sites in the Waterloo and Ypres Salient areas and include a visit to the Blundell's plaque in St George's Memorial Church and a cultural trip to Bruges. It will again be led by Tim, but supported by Col Richard Preston who is a specialist on Waterloo. Please contact Amber Oliver for a full outline brief on what will be a very popular, informative and social occasion.

The Peter Blundell Society

The PBS was established by Old Blundellians over half a century ago. It is a charity whose objects are to provide funds for the maintenance of and additions to the buildings and land of Blundell's School, for the education of pupils attending the School through the award of bursaries or scholarships and for the furtherance in other ways of the charitable objects of the Founder of the School.

Originally, the PBS undertook all fundraising on behalf of the School. However, nowadays the School (itself a registered charity) has a Development Office with a full time professional staff led by Amber Oliver and conducts these activities. As a result, the PBS does not actively seek to raise funds but works closely with the Development Office. The PBS continues to receive some covenanted income and the occasional legacy, but more importantly it has held the ER Crowe Memorial Fund raised by the OB Club in 2008.

The PBS uses its general income to support a number of smaller Blundell's projects and initiatives. The ER Crowe Memorial Fund monies are used to meet the educational costs of the Crowe Scholars. If you would like to know more about the PBS, please do contact Amber Oliver in the Development Office.

Hare & Hounds Alumni Race

Saturday 12th December

This is an increasingly popular race between former pupils of many independent schools and held on Wimbledon Common, London. If you would like to be part of the Blundell's Alumni team, please contact Giles Stimson on giles@stimson.go-plus.net For the first time this year, the School is hoping to field a team to support the Alumni team and current senior pupils are being invited to compete at the meet.

Recent Events

Balliol Dinner



In May we celebrated the 400th anniversary of a definitive agreement put in place in 1615 for pupils of Blundell's School to attend Balliol College, Oxford. A special thanks to Professor Nick Dewey (SH 44-50) for his advice and assistance in co-ordinating the Balliol Dinner and to our two delightful speakers Cedric Clapp (P 60-65, Chairman of the Governors) and Jessica Mannix (GH 81-83, Current Governor) for such insightful speeches, reaffirming the strong connection between Balliol and Blundell's. Thank you so much to all who supported this event.

London Casual Drinks Reception

We had a fabulous evening in June, courtesy of James Goff and Peter Sullings, in the courtyard of the former 'In and Out Club' in Piccadilly. This was a pop up reception as there is an extensive renovation project taking place at the site (it will become a tasting centre for traditional English food) and the Blundellian community gathered together to enjoy a few drinks and delicious canapés, accompanied by live music. As always, we are very grateful to James and Peter for enabling us to hold this function in central London.



OBs enjoy catching up at the pop up reception

*Andrew (OH 03-10) and Richard (OH 01-08)
Longstreet*



Show congratulations

It is always good to catch up with Old Blundellians and past and current parents on the Blundell's stand at the Devon County, Royal Cornwall and Mid Devon Shows. One of the OBs who visited us at the Devon show was Lewis Steer (FH 06-13) fresh from winning Best Young Entrepreneur in the Devon Farm Business Awards - a category the judges created specially to recognise his achievements. Another OB John Clapp (TH 88-91) and his wife Clare scooped the ultimate accolade of Devon Farmer of the Year in the awards.

The Russell veterans



Kevin Squibb (left) winner of the Men's 40-50 category with Giles Stimson (NC 60-65), captain of the Blundell's alumni team for the Hare & Hounds race

Congratulations to all parents and OBs who took part in this year's Russell. Once again, they showed grit and determination to take on this unique Blundell's challenge! The winners for each category were:

- Women Under 40
Amy Cross (NC 09-14)
- Women 40-50
Justine Withey *Current Parent*
- Men 40-50
Kevin Squibb *Current Parent*
- Men Over 50
David Eaton Jones *Current Parent*



Left: A good time was had by all who attended OB Day Below Hatty Goody accompanied by Andrew Barlow



Above: Bella Barlow entertains

The theme for this year's OB Day in June was Music at Blundell's. Following the AGM, at which Chairman Judge Paul Waterworth agreed to retain the Chairmanship for one more year, Chapel offered an enhanced service. The Blundell's choir sang beautifully and the added music was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Reverend Tim Hunt for preaching and Bella Barlow (GH 99-06) for reading the lesson.

Staff joined Old Blundellians and partners for drinks in the recently extended Colin Beale Centre and 85 OBs sat down to an excellent lunch, provided by the School Catering Department, in the marquee on Big Field. Andrew Barlow, as President for the Day, spoke eloquently about his path to Director of Music at Blundell's and his 30 years of tenure. Andrew's address was interspersed with lively performances from recent OB musicians Bella Barlow, Jess Atkins (GH 07-14) and Hatty Goody (GH 08-10).

Tea was taken at 4.30pm in the Colin Beale Centre and all agreed that the day had been most enjoyable. We hope to see even more attending next year with girls' sport being the theme!



Chris Hoy (OH 90-95), seen here with Second Master Bart Wielenga, was one of the Old Blundellians who came to visit the Blundell's stand at Pembroke House School in Kenya during the Ndume 7s tournament



1604 Society

Following the commencement of our 'Gift in your Will' campaign, we were delighted to welcome members of our 1604 Society (the society to acknowledge those that have pledged a gift in their will and made it known to the Development Office) to the annual lunch, this time taking place at Blundell House by kind invitation of the Head. If you would like to know more about this most enduring support of Blundell's, please contact Amber Oliver in confidence.

Anniversary Lunch

Old Blundellians gathered at Somerset County Cricket Club in the Ted Crowe Room to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Ondaatje Pavilion. Throughout the day, they were able to watch the opening fixture of the 2015 Women's Ashes Series when the England team beat Australia by four wickets. Following the celebratory lunch, speeches were given by Sir Christopher Ondaatje (P 47-51), Nigel Preston (W 70-73) Chairman of the Ted Crowe Room and Guy Lavender, Chief Executive of SCCC.

Photo courtesy Alain Lockyer Somerset Photo News

News of Old Blundellians



An epic journey

As manifestations of true grit and resilience, it would be hard to beat Old Blundellian Tom Rainey (FH 02-07) and team mate Lawrence Walters who arrived in Salcombe in August after rowing across the North Atlantic in 93 days and for more than 4,300 miles. In the process, they broke two world records and raised money for the Brain Tumour Charity.

As Team Ocean Valour, Tom and Lawrence set out from New York in May on their unsupported non-stop journey which saw them survive a hurricane, monster waves, hallucinations and a capsize. The pinnacle of ocean rowing, this trip has been attempted by 60 crews, completed by only 22 and with five crews lost at sea; in comparison, over 170 crews have attempted the Atlantic East to West crossing with the majority succeeding.

Despite originally attempting to break the existing 55 day speed record for the route the experienced oarsmen saw that chance evaporate within the first month when they became stuck in a monstrous swirl of current 300 miles south of Halifax, Nova Scotia. After being pushed around in the loop hundreds of miles across for ten days the pair were eventually able to break free by rowing back the way they had come.

However, less than a week later the team was helped out by the Gulf Stream and favourable wind conditions and achieved a new world record for the greatest distance covered in 24 hours by an ocean rowing boat; an astounding 112.5 nautical miles (129 miles). The second world record was achieved as the two oarsmen finished their challenge and became the youngest team to ever complete the route.

Tom and Lawrence took it in turns to row, each spending two hours on the oars before resting in the cabin for two hours whilst his team mate took over. They carried everything they needed on their boat, making drinking water by using an electrical desalination device powered (like everything else) by solar panels. After six weeks at sea, they started rationing food because of the delay caused by the loop of current, taking on fewer and fewer calories than the 6000 kCals they needed. By the time they landed at



Salcombe they had less than a day's food left and had lost a significant amount of weight.

It was Tom's idea to take on the challenge of rowing across the North Atlantic to honour the memory of his father Luke (OH 70-72) who died from a brain tumour in 2012, and who was a great sailor and environmentalist. Team Ocean Valour was raising money for the Brain Tumour Charity to fund their early detection programme to ensure those battling the disease receive the best treatment as soon as possible.

During their journey, Team Ocean Valour encountered waves more than 60ft high and winds in excess of 75mph, saw turtles, sharks, whales and dolphins and took more than 2.4million oar strokes. You can read more about their incredible adventure on the website www.oceanvalour.co.uk

*Top: Team Ocean Valour row out of New York
Above: Lawrence (left) and Tom celebrate their arrival in Salcombe after rowing across the Atlantic*

A Day to Remember

By Professor Nick Dewey (SH 44-50)

Friday, 22nd September 1944: Paddington Station. The tiny newsreel cinema on the concourse is showing footage of the ongoing airborne assault on Arnhem, while at the nearby 'flea-pit' on Praed Street you could enjoy Olivier's *Henry V*, just released. The V2 rockets, Hitler's last desperate bid for victory, are still a threat, but the VI 'doodlebugs' have been silenced by the advancing allied armies.

The huge clock dominating platform one – still keeping time today – strikes the hour of noon. The 'Schools Special', comprising some dozen carriages in the cream and chocolate livery of the old GWR, is about to depart for the West Country. The windows throughout the train are mostly labelled BLUNDELL'S, whose large London contingent is now returning to the wartime safety of Tiverton. (I recall this version of the Eton boating song: 'Rugby may be more clever, Harrow may make more runs, but Blundell's has all the wet weather – and is out of range of the Huns'.)

As the wheels of the monster steam loco begin to churn, tearful mothers adorning the platform wave goodbye to their offspring for another three months, while fathers in city garb, bowler-hatted and with well-furled umbrellas, are more restrained in their farewells. Do the boys care that the hols are now over? Our feelings are mixed, friendships renewed and gaudy ties permitted for another 24 hours.

At last we arrive at Tiverton Junction (long since superseded by Tiverton Parkway), a desolate stop on the main line. The horde piles out into the 'Tivy Bumper', drawn by a decrepit little puffing billy, bound for Tivy station proper. Chaos reigns. The two platforms there are already piled high with boys' bikes and trunks, forwarded by PLA (Passenger Luggage in Advanced) at 2.3d. a time. To compound matters, another 'Bumper' pulls in from Exeter.

Tired and apprehensive, I embark on the final leg of my long journey on this, my first day at the School. Walking along Wilcombe Lane, over the railway line by the tin footbridge, and finally up Blundell's Road, I am joined at some point by an unknown companion, also headed for School House, and like me a 'newbug'. I soon discover that his name is John Rae (SH 44-49). We start to talk. After a lifetime of friendship, we are still talking seventy years later!



OB Football vs the School

The sudden death of Old Blundellian Nick Cole (FH 99-06) at the age of 26 shocked many and in his memory, the Old Blundellian Footballers and Dr Balsdon have decided to annually award a Salver to the best L6th player of the season.

This year, following a minute's silence at the beginning of the game, it was awarded by Nick's brother Matt (FH 02-09) to Henry Hunt who has been outstanding at the heart of the defence throughout the season.

The 1st XI started the game strongly with Rory Thomas opening the scoring with an excellent effort, though not to be outdone, Alex Bartley produced a quality second. Will Denford pulled one back from a corner and Matt Cole produced an outstanding equaliser. The 1st XI were then awarded a 'clear' penalty which was despatched by Joel Harden.

In the second half the OBs then showed great spirit and, but for a great goal line clearance from Luke Ricketts, Kwabena Asare would have brought the scores level. The 1st XI finally took their chances after some sustained pressure through Alex Lomas and Captain Austin Robertshaw.

The OB game is always the highlight of my season. I cannot thank Kwame Asare enough for organising the team and the 'boys' for once again returning and producing such a great game.

Dr John Balsdon



Mr and Mrs Bufton

Two OBs were recently married in Blundell's chapel. In April, the Reverend Tim Hunt officiated at the wedding of Charlotte Brigden (SH 96-97, GH 97- 02) and Dominic Bufton. Guests included OBs Holly Brigden, Angie Gordon-Clarke, Julie Gordon, Katie Gillespie, Gregory Lock, Natalie and Danny Ginn as well as current and ex staff.

In the summer, Emily Runciman (NC 93-95) married Neil Addison and amongst the many guests were OBs Alix Sherman (née Abram), Lucy Kitt (Maceachern), Emma Sanchez (Tindall), Andrew Ridland and Louise Rudge (Elliott).



Congratulations to both couples and we wish them much happiness in their futures together.

Mr and Mrs Addison



James Goff (left) and Scott Ward-Reece celebrate their victory

Winning Team

Their sporting experience at Blundell's stood them in good stead when the team from Stirling Ackroyd – three of whom were Old Blundellians – entered the Surveyor Sevens in May and won, beating the likes of JLL, CBRE and Knight Frank. The OBs who helped the team to victory were captain Scott Ward-Reece (FH 01-08), William Banbury (FH 02-07) and William Gingell (OH 02-04). Stirling Ackroyd was founded by OB James Goff (M 75-79) who is now Chairman of the company.

Living and working in Nepal

By Sam Mills (P 07-14)

In spring 2014, after a 35 hour journey involving a car, a bus, a plane, a train, a boat and a jeep, I arrived on the small, isolated Hebridean Island of Coll, home to a handful of rugged islanders and Project Trust. Now responsible for sending 300 post-A level students abroad every year, Project Trust organises teaching and social care placements across the developing world. I applied for and was accepted onto an eight month programme, teaching English in Nepal.

A few months later and I found myself standing in Delhi airport, alongside Chris, my assigned partner, awaiting my connecting flight to Kathmandu. I had completed a week's teacher training course and four months fundraising and was ready to get started. My destination was the small village of Bobang, in the foothills of the Himalayas in Baglung district, Western Nepal. We would be staying with the headmaster of the local school, Yam Bahadur Kayat and had our own room and kitchen in his house, also inhabited by the nine members of his family.

We were soon settled into a routine. Dalbhat (the Nepali speciality of rice and lentils), which we ate twice a day, was hard to start with but finding ways to spice it up became an entertaining challenge. Washing meanwhile involved a trip down to the river; hand washing a woollen jumper in a torrent in winter is amazingly difficult, especially with an audience of 40 smirking villagers.

Meanwhile, teaching was frustrating and rewarding in equal measure. My class sizes varied from 40 to 105 and the ages of my students from six to 18. A lack of resources (paper, coloured pens, books etc) made life difficult, as did the lack of space for the larger classes. The bulk of my lessons were

with the lower half of the school, ages six to 13 which was a particularly interesting challenge. Keeping 50 seven year olds interested for a 40 minute lesson was incredibly hard work, but dipping into my early Blundell's and primary school memories, I borrowed some games which worked a treat.

Our host and his children were amazing and absorbed almost all of our time out of school. When we did get out, we were taken into smoky kitchens to enjoy plates of 'buthecko macoi' (popcorn) or a glass of the local brew. Two particular highlights were a Nepali wedding featuring three days of ceaseless eating and dancing and the festival of Holi during which we hurled coloured powder at one another in the midst of a crowd of 2000 energetically dancing Nepalis while a popstar from Kathmandu performed in the school playground.

In the week that followed 25th April, however, a sombre mood descended over the village as news of the devastation caused by the earthquake began to filter through. For us it had been a sizeable tremor, but one that caused no damage whatsoever, the main consequence in Bobang being a climate of intense paranoia. A lack of news only added to this. Initially we were entirely unfazed by the quake, my first reaction being, "oh dear, the buffaloes are stampeding again". As news did begin to dribble through, almost entirely via phone calls from Devon, everyone began to understand the magnitude of what had happened. Soon the village was filled with refugees retreating to their families' homes and everyone was sleeping in tents for safety. Instead of this causing misery, however, the village came together as huge communal



tents were erected and bonfires lit. The attitude of the people of Bobang in the face of the danger characterised the incredible optimism of everybody in Nepal and is the most lasting impression I will take away from the country.

Following the news we continued working and living in Bobang for as long as we could before our visas expired; the ruined visa office unable to replace them. We were forced to say our teary goodbyes a few months early and were sent off in traditional Nepali style, covered in red powder, silk scarves and garlands of flowers.

If anyone is interested in Project Trust, please do get in touch with Sam via the Development Office

Reflections on the Old Blundellian Normandy D-Day Battlefield Tour

By Paul Waterworth (NC 58-62)

What more is there to learn about D-Day and the battle by the Allied forces for a foothold on mainland France in 1944?

We are all familiar with the photograph of the Tommy wading from his landing craft, the sea up to his knees, his rifle carried over his head, wearing his rimless spectacles and a fixed look on his face, revealing a mixture of terror and determination. We have seen 'The Longest Day' and more recently, 'Saving Private Ryan' and found almost unbearable the images of the ferocity of the defence fire facing the GI's as they attempted the apparently impossible in ascending the sheer cliffs behind Omaha Beach. We know about the scale of the Arromanches Mulberry Harbour, towed across the Channel in adverse sea conditions, only to be swept away by gales and then rebuilt to provide the essential supply lines for Allied forces.

What more do we need to know? It happened more than 70 years ago. The world and Europe have progressed. We are allies now: NATO and the European Union has cemented friendships. We have new problems and we fear new aggressors.

And yet and yet. As 24 Old Blundellians and seven guests crossed the Channel in

early May 2015, there was a palpable atmosphere of anticipation, fascination and a desire to see with our own eyes, even those who had visited before, the scenes of the largest and most famous amphibious assault on a heavily defended coastline in military history.

We realised that, in our midst, there were several who had heard stories of this extraordinary endeavour from those who had been directly involved in D-Day and the Normandy campaign of 1944. In truth, many of us visiting Normandy in 2015 are the last generation who can record for posterity what we were told directly by some of those who had been there at the time.

Thus it was that this trip was not just a visit to a site of historical significance. This was part of the stories of our families, of our country and of the School common to most of us, Blundell's. This felt close, personal and in some cases, very emotional.

A truncated description of our daily movements cannot do justice to the real experience. We were fortunate to be under the sensitive and knowledgeable guidance of Tim Courtenay, assisted by Robert Tailour. Their research and professional military experience enabled them to paint a technical, accurate and detailed picture of the scale of the operations and its achievements. The practical arrangements for the tour had been made by 'Matron', Amber Oliver and her team from the Development Office.

Arriving at Pegasus Bridge and standing on the very landing place of the first two gliders carrying the assault troops whose objective was to capture the bridge, meant that our imaginations took us there, not on a bright sunny day in May 2015, but under the stars and in the line of fire of an unsuspecting enemy at 0330 hrs on D-Day, 6th June 1944. Visiting the Cafe Gondree, only a few metres to the west of the Bridge, the first dwelling in France to be liberated, was to feel pride in the fact that it was British airborne forces who had achieved that morale boosting, initial success.



Bottom left: Paul Waterworth with a memorial to Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery
Above: Geoffrey Hotblack (W 57-62) places a cross on the grave of OB Lt Col R W James

To visit Merville Battery, inland from the invasion beaches, an almost impregnable fort-like entrenchment of artillery, some of which was thought to have a range of over 14000 yards, was to gain a little understanding of the sheer scale of some of the objectives and the bravery required to achieve them. Of the 650 parachutists dropped to eliminate the threat posed to the invasion troops by the battery (an outcome which was successful), only 65 survived.

We saw the parachute still draped over the steeple of the small church in the village of St. Mer Eglise where a GI Pfc. John Steele had perished on D-Day. We walked the vast open width of the invasion beach at Utah, where the American forces landed, with virtually no cover for the infantry. We visited the British and Canadian beaches of Gold, Juno and Sword and imagined that we were in the van of the invasion force as we walked up that beach, so peaceful looking now, but a death trap that day 70 years ago. We admired the remains of the miracle construction that was the Mulberry Harbour at Arromanches and that at Omaha, similarly destroyed by storm but never rebuilt.

Our last day was 8th May, VE Day. There was a parade in the town and wreaths were laid on the War Memorial outside the Hotel





Some of the Old Blundellians and guests on the Battlefield 2015 tour

de Ville and a French band played the Marseillaise. Visitors mingled with local people and all stood in respectful silence and no doubt thought about those events 70 years ago, as we had done all week.

We thought also about the dead from both sides and invariably how young were those who perished. We visited the rather oppressive looking cemetery at La Cambe dedicated to the dead from the German Army. We also went to the beautiful and lush American Cemetery at St Laurent above Omaha Beach which contains the graves of 9,386 men and records the names and 1,557 American soldiers who have no known grave.

We walked, mostly in silence, the serried ranks of the gravestones in several cemeteries maintained so beautifully by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. That at Bayeux contains 4648 graves, some 4000 from the United Kingdom, including Old Blundellians, just as we are. We knew none of them in person but they are not truly strangers. They walked the same school paths, played on Big Field and Gornhay, sang in the Chapel, said Latin Prayer, learned the significance of the squirrel shields, had similar dreams and hopes and ambitions as we had at their ages. Their lives were, however, cut short and we gazed down and said a prayer of thanks for their sacrifices on our behalf, placing on the marked grave of each one of them a Remembrance Cross bearing the Blundell's School shield. They felt like friends we never knew. It is no wonder that military men do not forget their fallen comrades.

We realised with even greater clarity that we do indeed need to remember: not to wallow, but to be aware of the dangers and weaknesses inherent in the human condition. It is our responsibility to the fallen of both sides and to present and future

generations to continue to seek ways of avoiding the worst excesses of tyranny and evil.

We were 12 hours late arriving home, the French port workers had gone on strike, we were diverted from our intended port of departure and the hovercraft broke down. We reached Blundell's at 04.45 hrs, with daylight breaking. In the grand scheme of life, what did it matter? Few of us could resist a glance across to the Chapel and old Big School, solid, reassuring and another

reminder of those we never knew who had once walked this way. At least we could still do so.

The full report by Paul Waterworth can be seen on the OB website and includes verbatim accounts by various members of the party of what they were told by their relations who had taken part in the Normandy campaign.

We will remember them

We continue the list of Blundellians who gave their lives on active service during the First World War with those who died during the second half of 1915

Baillie, Alan de la Touche (DB 1907-14), aged 21
 Brameld, John Neville (JH and OH 1907-11), aged 20
 Dallas, John Sweetland (DB 1899-1903), aged 30
 Eyre, Joseph Charles (DB and P 1892-95), aged 34
 Hicks, Walter Gerald (SH 1908-12), aged 20
 Mackinnon, Colin Alexander John (OH 1912-14), aged 18
 Paddison, George Mitford (DB 1906-12), aged 21
 Pope, Lawrence Kelway (NC 1903-07), aged 26
 Rawlinson, Robert (DB and OH 1908-11), aged 21
 Rees-Mogg, Louis Leyson (DB 1901-08), aged 25
 Silcock, Bertram Baker (P 1905-09), aged 23
 Smith, Lewis Herbert Colin (SH 1910-11), aged 21
 Smyth-Osborne, Wilfrid (NC 1906-13), aged 21
 Stanwell, William Alexander (NC 1908-13), aged 21
 Symes, Charles William (OH 1899-1902), aged 30
 Tracey, Geoffrey Eugene (DB 1908-11), aged 19
 Wills, Michael Secombe (SH 1908-11), aged 21
 Windle, Michael William Maxwell (W 1907-11), aged 22

Blundell's Community

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2015

27th Blundell's One Day Event Bicton Arena

OCTOBER 2015

2nd An Evening with Ben Collins ('The Stig')
Big School 7.00pm **Contact: Development Office**

14th Winter Lunch Speaker Paul Waterworth (NC 58-62)
'Reflections from beyond the Bench'
Beale Centre 12.30pm **Contact: OB Club**

15th Wine tasting evening in aid of Hope for Justice
Ondaatje Hall 7.00pm **Contact: Main Office**

21st Parents' Coffee Morning Beale Centre
11.30am - 12.30pm **Contact: Development Office**

24th Food, Craft and Gift Fair organised by the Tiverton
Friends Group of the Children's Hospice South West.
Big School and Dining Hall 10.00am - 4.00pm

NOVEMBER 2015

5th Parents' Firework Evening Drinks
Beale Centre. 7.00pm - 9.00pm
Contact: Development Office

11th Winter Lunch Speaker Barry Dawe MBE (Head of CCF)
Beale Centre. 12.30pm **Contact: OB Club**

13th- Blundell's Community Reception, Dubai TBC
Contact: Development Office

19th Blundell's At The Shows concert Ondaatje Hall 7.00pm
Ticketed event **Contact: Main Office**

27th OB Club Dinner Officer's Mess, Royal Marines
Commando Training Centre, Lympstone, Devon 7.30pm
Contact: OB Club

DECEMBER 2015

4th Blundell's Christmas Carol Service
Exeter Cathedral 2.00pm **Contact: Main Office**

9th Winter Lunch Speaker Rob Kitson (Guardian Rugby
Correspondent) 'Hold the Back Page: Life as a
sportswriter.' **Contact: OB Club**

12th Hare & Hounds Alumni Race Wimbledon Common.
Contact: Development Office

JANUARY 2016

13th Winter Lunch Details TBC Beale Centre 12.30pm
Contact: OB Club

27th- Street Child School play

29th Contact: Main Office

FEBRUARY 2016

13th Winter Lunch Speaker Brian Jenkins (Master 65-92,
Housemaster NC 73-78) 'Old School Stories' Beale
Centre 12.30pm. **Contact: OB Club**

MARCH 2016

7th The Russell including the Veterans' Race
Contact: Development Office

9th Winter Lunch Speaker The Head Nicola Huggett
Beale Centre. 12.30pm **Contact: OB Club**

12th 90s Gaudy Big School 12 noon
Contact: Development Office

18th- OB Sport Weekend Fives, Hockey, Football,
19th Netball & Squash **Contact: OB Club**

19th Blundell's Community Sports Dinner
Contact: Development Office

23rd Music Concert St George's Bristol

APRIL 2016

22nd The Gorton Lecture given by Tom Rainey (FH 02-07).
Atlantic rower. Big School 7.00pm - 8.30pm
Contact: Development Office

MAY 2016

9th Battlefield Tour 3 Ypres and Waterloo
Contact: Development Office

13th Contact: Development Office

19th Drinks Reception Blundell's stand at the Devon County
Show **Contact: Development Office**

TBC London Casual Drinks **Contact: Development Office**

JUNE 2016

18th OB Day Theme Girls' Sport **Contact: OB Club**

CONTACT DETAILS

Development Office

Amber Oliver Development Director
Tel: 01884 232324 email: a.oliver@blundells.org

Jessica Riley Development PA
Tel: 01884 243262 email: devoffice@blundells.org

Main Office

Carole Francis
Tel: 01884 232401 email: cfrancis@blundells.org

Old Blundellian Club

Janet Wooff OB Administrator
Tel: 01884 232010 email: admin@obclub.co.uk

Paddy Armstrong OB Secretary
Tel: 07799 066966 email: pa@obclub.co.uk

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

THE COLIN BEALE CENTRE

The Beale Centre is available for use, free of charge, to all members of the Old Blundellian Club for social events. Bookings can be made through **admin@obclub.co.uk** or **01884 232010**. Catering and bar facilities can be provided.