



## THE BLUNDELL'S BULLETIN #16

7<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Parents and Friends of Blundell's

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### HEAD'S MESSAGE

#### \*\*\*CORONAVIRUS UPDATE\*\*\*

A week ago, I wrote to the Blundell's community regarding the advice we had received regarding the Coronavirus outbreak in China. I can confirm that none of our pupils from China or Hong Kong will be returning home over Half-Term and all are accommodated. I would like to thank you again for the compassionate and thoughtful way in which you have responded.

Today further guidance has been offered by Public Health England extending the region at most risk. Whereas last week our advice focused on China and Hong Kong, this week the following countries have also been included: Thailand, Japan, Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia and Macau.

With the situation evolving rapidly our advice to families intending to travel to these destinations is that you reconsider as, upon returning to the UK, pupils may be required to remain in quarantine for up to two weeks. I appreciate that this will cause further disruptions to arrangements, but I am sure you will understand the rationale behind the advice.

We have come to an agreement with a well-known organisation who run regular summer camps at boarding schools across the UK. They will be using the Blundell's campus for the duration of the Easter holidays to provide accommodation for international pupils who are unable to return home. This is open to all our international pupils and also for pupils from other schools. More information will follow about this programme in due course.

## SDP LAUNCH

I would like to extend a warm invitation to all members of the Blundell's community to the launch of the Blundell's 2025 strategic vision on Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> of February. (More details below). It is an opportunity for me to set out the direction of travel for the next 5 years at Blundell's and there are some exciting projects to discuss. I hope many of you will be able to make it.



I had a most enjoyable morning with the Year 7 Chemists today. I didn't do very well in my test, but I enjoyed the experiments very much. In that regard my Chemistry experience is much unchanged in the past 30 years!

I was delighted with our boys' and girls' hockey teams this week and you will read more about those performances below, but it has been tremendously enjoyable watching the U18 girls and the U15 boys pull off such excellent results.

This coming week the focus will be the Spring Concert at Exeter Cathedral. The pupils have worked extraordinarily hard this week and it should be a very special evening as we combine with musicians from Tiverton High School and numerous other primary schools

## PUPIL NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The **1st XI girls' hockey** team had a fantastic victory over Dauntsey's School in the in the semi-final of the the Investec National Plate competition. The match was hotly contested with a final scoreline of 3 – 1. The girls won with a very impressive performance.



The boys have also had a good week. The **UI5As** produced a superb performance resulting in a victory against Millfield in the Independent Schools Hockey Cup. This result puts the boys into the last 16 in the country and they meet Bristol Grammar School in the next round.

The equestrian team had a successful day in the NSEA Eventers' Challenge at Pontispool Equestrian Centre on Sunday. The team of **Polly Muirhead (Y13 W)**, **Molly Clayton (Y12 GH)**, **Lara Clarkson (Y12 NC)** and **Archie Guinness (Y10 OH)** won the 1m class and have qualified for this event at the NSEA Eventers' Challenge Championships at Hickstead in May.

**Tom Yeadon (Y12 P)**, **Erica Park (Y12 GH)** and **Elizabeth Curgenvin (Y12 NC)** made an excellent contribution to the **Junior Debating Competition** on 28th January. They judged the event and did so with great professionalism and thoughtfulness. **Bea Tanner (Y12 NC)** did a great job in hosting the evening. It is so important for younger pupils to see the contribution made by senior pupils in leading these events. The winning house was **Gorton House** with the award for Best Overall Speaker going to **Freya Gillard (Y9 GH)**. Special mention should be made of **Matteo Riezzo (Y9 P)** as Second Best Speaker and **Arabella Gresswell (Y8 SH)** as Best Summary Speaker

In the **Senior Debating Competition** **Petergate** and **North Close** were the joint overall winners with **Tom Yeadon (Y12 P)** winning the Best Speaker prize.

Several students were presented with **Duke of Edinburgh** awards this week. **Tom Baxter (12 FH)**, **Molly Clayton (Y12 GH)**, **Craig Harvie (Y12 OH)** and **Honor Jones (Y12 GH)** all received the certificates and badges for their Silver Awards. **Tilda Huntingford**, **Ollie Leyshon**, **Sophia Marr**, **Tommy Ryder**, **Oliver Squires** and **Jessica Taylor (all Y13 W)** have all completed their Gold Awards and will be presented with these at a reception at Buckingham Palace. This is an incredible achievement of which they should all be very proud.

## THE PAST WEEK

With the **Spring Concert** fast approaching, on Wednesday we hosted 80 students and staff from Tiverton High School, Dulverton Junior School, St Peter's Prep and Blundell's Prep for a joint rehearsal in preparation for the event. Earlier in the week we also held workshops with pupils from Exeter Cathedral School and 5 local Tiverton primary schools. Alex Roth, the composer of the cantata A Time to Dance will at the concert. Tickets for the are selling fast – details of how to book tickets are below in the **Notices and Links** section.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TODAY

- (16:15) **Years 11, 12 and 13** Enrichment: A Talk by Baroness Caroline Cox - Big School  
(19:00) **Fireside Chat** with Baroness Caroline Cox – Blundell House

### TOMORROW

Fixtures:  
Football v King's College Taunton  
Boys' Hockey v Colston's and Queen's College Taunton  
Netball v King's Bruton

All Day **Staff Coaching Course** until Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Beale Centre

### NEXT WEEK

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb** **Ten Tors Training** – Dartmoor

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb** (18:00) **Senior Management/OB Drinks Reception** – Beale Centre

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb** (12:30) **OB Winter Lunch:** Speaker – Harry Flower (Head Gardener)  
'Gardening with Blundell's pupils' - Beale Centre  
(19:00) **Spring Concert:** 'A Time to Dance' - Exeter Cathedral

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb** (17:30) **Strategic Development Plan** launch event for parents – Ondaatje Hall

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb** (03:45) **Cricket Tour to India** departs – until 24<sup>th</sup> February  
(09:00) **Silver DofE** Practice Expedition to Exmoor – until 16<sup>th</sup> February  
(16:00) **World Challenge Expedition to Madagascar 2021:**  
launch presentation to parents of interested pupils in Years 10 and 11  
– Ondaatje Hall  
(16:00) **Half-Term begins** – until Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

### FURTHER AHEAD

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb** **Kayak Racing Squad:** Waterside A

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb** **Netball Youth Camp at Blundell's**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb** **Kayak Racing Squad:** Thameside Race 1

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb** **Pro Corda National Chamber Music Competition:**  
Semi-final – Chapel

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb** **Lent Visitor:** The Rev'd Anthony Bewes – in school until Friday

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb** (19:30) **Event for Local Primary Heads** - Beale Centre  
**North Close/Old House Play** – Ondaatje Hall

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb** (16:00) **Year 13 Enrichment: 'Student Financing and Budgeting'**  
(17:00) **Year 9** Parents' Academic forum – Ondaatje Hall  
(17:30) **Year 9** Parents' Meeting – Big School  
(19:30) **North Close/Old House Play** – Ondaatje Hall

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> Feb** Taunton Young Singer Competition (**Years 5 - 8**)

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March** **NSEA Eventers' Challenge** - King's Sedgmoor Equestrian Centre  
Taunton Young Singer Competition (**Years 9 – 13**)

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March** **Field Day**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March** (19:30) **Celebratory Dinner** to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Russell -  
Big School

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March** (09:30) **Guest Morning** – Blundell House  
(14:00) **The Russell**



## **NOTICES AND LINKS**

### **Blundell's Association**

There are two events to come this term:

- a film night, <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/OLJ> Further details are below.
- an informative talk by Ian Mahoney on drugs entitled; 'Back from the Brink'. <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/OLL>

All of these events are ticketed and please use the links to book your place. Alternatively, please do get in touch with Mrs Wheatley - [kjw@blundells.org](mailto:kjw@blundells.org)

### **BLUNDELL'S ASSOCIATION FILM NIGHT: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

Don't miss this opportunity to see an incredible film:

The true story of Saroo Brierley who was separated from his family as a child and adopted by a Tasmanian couple (Nicole Kidman and David Wenham). As an adult, Saroo (Dev Patel) uses Google Earth to locate his home.

An astonishing true story that's treated with an admirably light and artistic touch, rather than an overly dramatic heavy hand. Despite a weaker second half, it is ultimately deeply moving.

Booking [tickets are free] via the link : <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/OLJ>

**Change of date** - please note that the **Petergate House Play** scheduled to be performed on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January has been moved to **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**.

Tickets for this year's **Spring Concert: A Time To Dance** are now available via the online booking system - please click on the following link to book your tickets:

<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/PEW>

The event takes place in **Exeter Cathedral on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 19:00**.

The first half will feature the orchestra performing much-loved ballet pieces by Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky as well as Márquez's sensuous and exciting Danzón. In the second half pupils from seven schools from Years 4-13 will join Blundell's Senior pupils to form a choral spectacular of over 250 voices and a professional orchestra in Alec Roth's A Time to Dance cantata.

In half-term on 19th February Blundell's will be hosting a **Netball Youth Camp** which give junior players the chance to get together with their friends and take to the court in the holidays.

This is a non-residential holiday camp providing 'Nothing but Netball' filled with top quality coaching and fun netball activities.

This camp is for all girls from the ages of 11-14 and there will be plenty of fun, skills and match play as our expert coaches give tips to help improve play. If you are the parent of a junior netball lover this is an unmissable holiday activity!

There are even offers available for this camp – with an England netball member discount available. Prices from £40.00. To book your netball-loving junior players on to this camp today, visit <https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/NYC>



This year marks the 140th running of **The Russell** at Blundell's School and to commemorate this we would be delighted to invite you to a celebratory **Pre-Race 'Pasta Party'** in Big School the evening before the race, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The invitation extends to the wider Blundell's Community and promises an evening to catch up with friends and colleagues as well as enjoy a delicious two-course 'Italian-themed' meal. Tickets cost ££22.50 for adults and £8 for children 16 and younger and can be purchased through Trybooking:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/book/event?embed&eid=9217>

Parents, Old Blundellians and pupils are all welcome!

Parents and Old Blundellians are welcome to join this year's **Russell Race** on Saturday 7th March from 15.00 onwards. You are welcome to run either the either the 'Open' (6 Miles) or 'Fun' (2.4 miles) Run. All participants **MUST** register in advance - [sign up here](#).

**Guinness World Record attempt to beat the Longest Knitted Bunting World Record -** Blundell's is pleased to support this great Tiverton Community initiative and world record attempt. Some of our students have already got involved and made a start on their first knitted flag during their activity time 'Knitting for Charity'. It's quite a challenge with many flags needed and so if you can knit or have friends or family in our wider Blundell's community, who can knit, please do get involved. Completed bunting needs to be handed in to Blundell's reception by 24th April (to give time to collate it and get it to the Town Hall). Please contact Mr Olive [ceo@blundells.org](mailto:ceo@blundells.org) or Mrs Bucknell [pcb@blundells.org](mailto:pcb@blundells.org) for further details.



**Placement opportunities for gap students this summer term** - the Château de Sauveterre School near Toulouse in France, has placements available for two female gap students, this summer term (23rd April to 2nd July). The school is part of The Cothill Trust, and is a small boarding school that receives a group of English pupils every term in order to immerse them in the French language and culture [www.sauveterre.net](http://www.sauveterre.net). If there are any OB's who might be interested in this opportunity, perhaps on a gap year now or who have completed their studies and would like to find out more about, please contact our Head of Higher Education and Careers, **Mrs Bucknell** [pcb@blundells.org](mailto:pcb@blundells.org)

### **RESULTS FROM THE PAST WEEK**

*All the school's sports results and fixtures can be found on the School Sports Website. Follow this link: <https://bit.ly/2m2L4VWq> (The Password to access team lists is *BlundellsSport*.)*

#### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February**

<b>Netball v Exeter School</b> P8 W3 DI L4		<b>Boys' Hockey v Mount Kelly</b> P4 W2 DI LI	
<b>U18A</b>	25 - 39	<b>U13A</b>	Lost
<b>U18B</b>	22 - 22	<b>U13B</b>	Drew
<b>U18C</b>	25 - 14	<b>U12A</b>	Won
<b>U18D</b>	14 - 6	<b>U12B</b>	Won
<b>U15A</b>	12 - 35		
<b>U15B</b>	7 - 29	<b>Boys' Hockey v Cullompton CC</b>	
<b>U14A</b>	26 - 19	<b>U15B</b>	5 - 2
<b>U14B</b>	17 - 26		
		<b>Boys' Hockey v Millfield</b>	
		<b>U15A</b>	2 - 1
<b>Netball v Maynard School</b>		<b>Football v West Buckland</b>	
<b>U13A</b>	Lost	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> XI</b>	6 - 4
<b>U13B</b>	Lost		

## Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February - U14 West Preliminaries

Boys' Hockey v Clayesmore		Boys' Hockey v King's Taunton	
U14A	1 - 3	U14A	2 - 2

### Boys' Hockey

The **U13As** battled hard and created numerous chances but the opposition scored with just a few minutes left on the clock to claim the victory.

The **U12As** were 1 – 4 down but they showed tremendous character and composure to come and claim an exciting game 5-4.

In the **U14 West Preliminaries** having lost to Clayesmore in the first game, the boys had to beat King's Taunton to progress to the West Finals. They got frustratingly close but a 2-2 draw just wasn't quite enough. **Hector Banton (Y9 P)**, **Chris Van Der Walt (Y9 FH)** and **James Clarkson (Y9 FH)** excelled against strong opposition.

### Netball

The **1<sup>st</sup> team** lost to Exeter School but this was always going to be a tough game. Exeter came 7<sup>th</sup> at the regional finals last weekend and have a 6ft 2in Goal Attack! Unfortunately we were physically and mentally a bit flat after such a great performance on the hockey pitch the day before. We did not play our best, sporadically we excelled, but we were not consistent enough in attack to convert turnovers to goals. Time to bounce back for Saturday.

The **2nds** secured an amazing 22 – 22 draw with Exeter. What a result – this was a nail-biter from start to finish and the girls came back from two goals down in the final quarter to achieve the draw. **Zoe Labdon (Y13 W)** and **Harriet Andrews (Y13 W)** were superb in defence, gaining so many tips and interceptions, putting immense pressure on the attack.



Blundell's  
*A TIME TO DANCE*

— SPRING CONCERT 2020 —





**Blundell's**

FOUNDED 1604

## **Blundell's 2025: A Strategic Vision**

The Head would like to invite you to a Drinks and Canapes Reception in Ondaatje Hall Foyer on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

This will be followed by a short presentation to mark the launch of the vision for

Blundell's 2025.

17:30 Drinks and canapes

18:00 Presentation

RSVP: Heather Vincent, PA to the Head ([h.vincent@blundells.org](mailto:h.vincent@blundells.org))

by Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020



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Please continue to follow the life of the school through the various social media platforms we use:

