



Blundell's

FOUNDED 1604

AUTUMN 2025

Diary



It has been a fantastic term with so much going on. It has also been just about the wettest November and December in living memory! Despite the wind and the rain, we have not stopped and Blundellians have continued to make the most of every day at our wonderful school.

The term ended with a Carol Service in Exeter Cathedral. It is a stunningly beautiful setting and having almost a thousand members of the Blundell's community singing carols together is a memory making moment. It is quite an undertaking getting the whole school to and from the Cathedral, but the effort is well worth it when you savour the moment of doing something special like that together. We are in the business of making memories, after all!

We enjoyed a hugely entertaining senior production in Ondaatje Theatre with a double cast performing on alternating nights. The depth of talent is at an all-time high with one cast primarily made up of Upper Sixth and another of Lower Sixth. The show was called *The Watsons* and is based upon a never-completed work by Jane Austen. It has been some time since we have been treated to a proper comedy, and the audience were well entertained.

On the sporting front a young 1st XI hockey team performed very well gaining some very good wins along the way. The team of the season were undoubtedly the mega-talented U15A team who won 11 of their 13 matches, drawing one and losing one. The trajectory of girls' hockey is steeply upwards, and we were delighted to hear of Sanna's (GHY11) selection to the England U16 hockey squad.

The 1st XV ended their long season on a high with a wonderful win on Big Field on the final day of the term. Playing expansive rugby in the rare sunshine, they put a sizable score on a big and capable Ivybridge team. The boys have done well and they will undoubtedly already be looking forward to the Sevens season. The 2nd XV had a fantastic season winning 9 of their 10 matches and the U13A's went one better remaining unbeaten despite traveling far and wide for stronger opposition. En route they beat Clifton College and Cranleigh as to of the outstanding highlights.

The penultimate week of the term was given over to our visitors from the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI), and we enjoyed having eight inspectors in our midst to interrogate and scrutinise all aspects of school life. We await the outcome and expect to hear in mid-January but off the record the inspectors told us they thought our pupils were a great credit to the school. I couldn't agree more.

Have a wonderful Christmas.

BART WIELENGA

Congratulations Sanna!

We are hugely excited for Sanna on her selection for the U16 England Age group Programme

She will now join the squad for Development camps, training sessions, and international fixtures to which we continue to wish her luck.

Sanna has represented the 1st team for 2 years, ISCA 1st team ladies, Exeter TA and worked extremely hard for this achievement. We look forward to Sanna's continued development, achievements and supporting her along the way!!



Remembrance



HIGHLIGHTS

Exeter Cathedral Carol Service 2025



It was wonderful to return to Exeter Cathedral this year for the Christmas Carol Service. In front of a full Cathedral, the service began with the first verse of *Once in Royal David's City*, sung seamlessly by Darcey in Year 8 from the Years 3 to 8 Chapel Choir. The service featured all the school choirs, with almost two hundred performers taking part, including the Years 3 to 8 Chapel Choir, the Senior Choir, Chamber Choir and Cantorum. This year they were supported by our largest ever group of staff and parents, all of whom brought real commitment to the occasion.

The service included many memorable musical moments. Imogen in Year 10 gave a brilliant solo in Cantorum's performance of the Coventry Carol by Leighton. *Nova Nova* by Farrington was a particular highlight; a jazz influenced carol full of rhythmic drive, percussive effects and exuberant

energy which the choirs delivered with great assurance. The programme also featured a moving arrangement of *Silent Night* by Anna Lapwood, with the younger pupils singing the melody, and a medieval inspired performance of *Now May We Singen* by the celebrated composer Cecilia McDowall.

The service closed with a rousing performance of *Hark the Herald*, accompanied by the school's Symphony Orchestra, who then played the congregation out with an extract from the *Finale of Stravinsky's Firebird Suite*. It was a fantastic way to end the term and an inspiring occasion for everyone involved. I congratulate all the pupils for their outstanding contribution and I am confident the whole school community left Exeter Cathedral with a real sense of Christmas spirit.





AV Hill Science & Maths Sixth Form Dinner

This term, over 100 pupils and staff gathered for the AV Hill Science & Maths Sixth Form Dinner, an evening dedicated to celebrating excellence in STEM.

The event featured an inspiring address from Old Blundellian Georgina Frankpitt, whose words set the tone for a night filled with energy and community spirit. Guests were also treated to performances by talented Year 9 and 10 musicians, the skills of a magician, and the entertaining flair of future game show host Mr Simson.

It was a brilliant occasion that highlighted the strength of our STEM community and the vibrancy of life at Blundell's.



Y11 Exeter Xscape Hunt Rooms

Our Year 11 Academic Scholars enjoyed an exciting trip to the Exeter Xscape Hunt Rooms!

They took on The Last Samurai and Blackbeard's Curse escape challenges, showcasing impressive teamwork, resilience, and applied problem-solving throughout. A fantastic evening with a brilliant group of bright young minds, well done to all involved!

Blundell's at Queen's College MUN

A Day of Debate, Diplomacy and Discovery

On Saturday 15th November, fourteen Blundell's pupils from Years 9-12 attended the Model United Nations conference at Queen's College, representing the nations of Mali and Luxembourg. For most, it was their first experience of MUN, yet all pupils embraced the challenge with confidence and enthusiasm.

Committees debated a range of urgent global issues, including mental health, child workers' rights, world hunger, climate change, sustainable seas and the war in Ukraine.

A special mention goes to Jules, who delivered an impressive speech in the General Assembly to nearly 500 delegates. Her clause on preventing extremist groups from exploiting encrypted online platforms was passed with strong support. Euan, our youngest delegate, also excelled with a clause on regulating AI in military applications, which was successfully passed in his committee.

The day was an excellent opportunity for pupils to build confidence, develop global awareness and experience the collaborative spirit of international diplomacy. Blundell's looks forward to future MUN events and welcoming even more pupils to take part. Pupils interested in joining should speak to Mrs Walter, Mrs Worthington or Dr Perrin-Haynes.



Year 12 Murder Mystery

The Year 12 Murder Mystery Evening was a great success and provided a memorable start to the new term. The evening began with a wonderful two-course meal, enjoyed by staff and pupils alike, before the drama unfolded and the "murder" was revealed.

All pupils threw themselves into the spirit of the event, engaging fully with their roles and the unfolding mystery. The atmosphere was lively, fun, and inclusive, making it the perfect opportunity for our new joiners to integrate with the year group.

The evening not only offered great entertainment but also acted as an excellent ice-breaker, helping pupils to get to know each other better and to socialise in a relaxed and enjoyable setting.



Year 9 Employer Encounter



Modern Languages Social

This term, pupils in Years 11-13 came together for a Modern Languages Social celebrating European languages and culture. The evening began with a lively European Day of Languages quiz, followed by traditional German food that created a relaxed atmosphere for pupils to connect across year groups. It was a fantastic occasion to celebrate the value of languages, build community, and inspire pupils for the year ahead.



Senior Kangaroo Mathematics Success

Following outstanding results in the Senior Maths Challenge, a number of pupils were invited to take part in the Senior Kangaroo, one of the most challenging follow-on rounds available.

We are delighted to congratulate Will and Ben, who both achieved Bronze certificates, with Ben securing the highest score in the school, a fantastic accomplishment.

It was particularly encouraging to see so many pupils from Years 11 and 12 putting themselves forward to take on this demanding paper. Their enthusiasm and ambition will put them in a strong position for future challenges, and we look forward to celebrating even more success next year.



Study Abroad

We were delighted to welcome The University Guys Roadshow to Blundell's. They brought hands-on support, bespoke advice and extensive expertise from twelve universities around the world, including institutions from the USA, Canada, Japan, Argentina, France, Italy, Switzerland and Ireland.

The event offered pupils and parents a unique chance to speak directly with university representatives, exploring the many pathways available beyond the UK and supporting our pupils to make confident decisions about their futures.

Attendees were left inspired by the wealth of opportunities overseas and a clear picture of how to submit competitive applications.

The world is wide open for our pupils and this event was a valuable reminder of the wealth of opportunities around the globe.



Girls Maths Olympiad

For the Olympiad, Anastasiia attained once again an exceptionally high score 47/50. This means she has qualified for the next round, the British Mathematical Olympiad, with a certificate of Distinction as well as the book prize.

Kathy and Amelia also attained Merits, also noting that they are only in Year 11, so a good result.

For the Mathematical Challenge for Girls, Hedy and Lucy both attained Merits in a similarly challenging competition, being only in Year 10, they should be very pleased with themselves.

Finally, we are delighted to announce that Anastasiia has been accepted onto the Advanced Mentoring Scheme for training pupils towards the International Maths Olympiad team. This highly prestigious scheme is exceptionally hard to access and being granted a place is extremely rare.

All of the girls involved should be proud of their accomplishments and marking 50 years of girls at Blundell's, we look forward to celebrating their continued success.



Full Colours

Congratulations to Henry(left) Daisy(middle-left), Edward FC (middle-right) and Matilda(right) on being awarded Full Colours for Academics.





On the last Friday of term Year 9 had an Art Day where pupils rotated through three exciting workshops led by exceptional visiting artists.

Pupils worked with the brilliant cardboard sculptor James Lake, who guided them in creating expressive bird sculptures using nothing more than cardboard, glue guns, and their own creativity. Every pupil produced a bird perched proudly on a stand, some inspired by kingfishers, others transformed into phoenixes or fantastical creatures complete with hats, fish in their beaks, or other imaginative features.

The second workshop was run by visiting artist Laura Grant. Pupils learned the traditional batik process using wax, dyes, and cloth, contributing to a stunning large-scale mural of the school which can now be seen in on display in Popham.

Blundell's very own Zoe Crockford ran a beautiful workshop focused on natural forms. Pupils crafted individual ceramic tiles inspired by leaves, flowers, seed pods, and organic patterns. These tiles will be fired, glazed, and installed in the Blundell's garden, creating a permanent outdoor artwork shaped by the hands of Year 9.

Year 9 Art Day was not only a chance to develop new skills, it was an opportunity for pupils to work alongside practising artists, experiment boldly, and contribute to artworks that will become part of the school's creative landscape. The day was filled with energy, curiosity, and joyful making, and the results will enrich our school environment for years to come.



Art Pupils visit London.

This term, our Year 10 and Year 12 Art and Photography pupils embarked on exciting trips to London, immersing themselves in world-class galleries.

Year 10 explored the National Portrait Gallery and the National Gallery, discovering masterpieces that span centuries. Meanwhile, Year 12 visited the Tate Modern, engaging with more contemporary works.

Both groups had the chance to experience an incredible variety of art, sparking ideas and inspiration for their individual coursework projects.

As always, our pupils represented the department brilliantly curious, enthusiastic, and an absolute pleasure to accompany.

Year 13 Product Design: Manufacturing in Full Swing!

Our A-level Product Design pupils are diving deep into the manufacturing phase and the projects emerging this year are nothing short of extraordinary. From custom electric guitars and Land Rover roof frames to striking architectural models and even a purpose-built clothes dryer for alpine gear, the creativity on display is exceptional.

The innovation, talent and technical skill of our Year 13 pupils continue to amaze us. We can't wait to see these projects come to life!



Celebrating Creativity: Our Annual Art Competitions

This term, the Art Department proudly hosted two exciting annual events: the Summer Photography Competition and Blundell's Portrait Artist of the Year. Both competitions showcased an incredible range of talent and creativity, with entries that truly impressed.

Summer Photography Competition

- Staff Winner: Mr Bowden
- Pupil Winner: Steven

Blundell's Portrait Artist of the Year This year's title was shared between two outstanding artists:

- Ella for her exceptional colour pencil portrait
- Monty for his striking photographic work

We also want to give a special mention to our talented Year 5 entrants, Daisy and Florence, whose contributions were full of promise and creativity.

These competitions continue to be one of the highlights of the year, inspiring pupils and staff alike to get creative.



The Senior Play: The Watsons

This term's Senior Play was a truly special production, forming part of the celebrations marking 50 years of girls at Blundell's. Performed to a sell-out audience on the 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th November, the cast brought to life Laura Wade's *The Watsons*, a sharp, witty and imaginative reworking of an unfinished Jane Austen novel.

The choice of play felt fitting for such a milestone year. Inspired by one of the greatest female writers in history, Wade's adaptation offered both a loving tribute to Austen and a daringly original exploration of authorship, control, and a woman's place within society. With its bold and complex female leads, the production perfectly reflected the trailblazing legacy being celebrated across the school.

After tackling grand tragedy in last year's *Lorna Doone* and *Les Misérables*, the shift into comedy proved a welcome challenge for the talented cast. Period comedy is a genre that demands precision, timing, rhythm and subtle nuance, yet the pupils rose to the task with creativity, flair and boundless energy. Their

performances were filled with warmth and humour, delivering a memorable interpretation that delighted audiences across all four evenings.

The production was supported by a dedicated pupil-led technical crew and the expertise of staff across Drama, Catering, Marketing and many others behind the scenes. It truly represented the collaborative spirit that defines the Senior Play each year.

The result was a witty, thoughtful and thoroughly engaging celebration of theatre and a fitting highlight in this milestone year honouring 50 years of girls at Blundell's.



Year 10 Trip To The Theatre Royal in Plymouth

Earlier in the term our Year 10 GCSE Drama pupils visited The Theatre Royal in Plymouth to watch the National Theatre's touring production of 'Dear England'. A thought provoking piece of theatre, offering a fresh perspective with Gareth Southgate's mission to transform the culture of the England Football team. With its revolving circular stage, clever use of screens, and the almost cinematic choreography, our pupils were taken on a visceral journey with lots to discuss and write about.

Henry - Sir Roger Moore

We are incredibly proud to announce that Henry has been awarded the Sir Roger Moore Certificate of Excellence for Grade 8 Acting one of the highest accolades presented by the international Speech and Drama examining academy.

With examinations taking place across the globe from Sri Lanka and Hong Kong to Spain and France this award recognises the highest achieving pupils worldwide.

Henry's success is the result of exceptional dedication and talent. Alongside three outstanding and contrasting performances, he was also required to sight-read, improvise, and deliver in-depth presentations on three challenging texts.

This is a truly remarkable achievement and a testament to the hard work Henry has brought to the department since joining us in Year 7.

Congratulations, Henry we are so proud of you!



Full Colours

Congratulations to Delilah (left) and Olivia (right) on being awarded Full Colours for Drama.





Blundell's Chapel Choirs Join the University of Exeter Chapel Choir for Evensong

Blundell's Chapel Choirs, featuring pupils from Years 3 to 13, came together for a beautiful Evensong alongside members of the University of Exeter Chapel Choir. The service was a moving celebration of music, community, and reflection, showcasing the shared love of choral singing across generations. It was a particular joy to welcome back three Old Blundellians Jack Ramsay, Fynnian Batsford, and Millie Davis who are now members of the Exeter University Chapel Choir. Their return added a special sense of continuity and pride to an evening that perfectly captured the spirit of Blundell's musical life.



Vexations and Resolutions

A Celebratory Evening of Blundell's Music, October 2025

Blundell's musicians delivered an unforgettable evening of sound, colour, and creativity at this year's Vexations and Resolutions concert. The event showcased the extraordinary depth of talent within our community, with more than 125 pupils taking to the stage.

Audiences were treated to outstanding performances across a wide musical spectrum, alongside enlightening talks from our young musicians that offered insight into their creative processes and inspirations. A particular highlight of the evening was a world premiere devised by our own Music Scholars, created in collaboration with the acclaimed Bath Philharmonia, a testament to the innovation and ambition thriving within Blundell's Music.

Huge congratulations go to our Senior Orchestra, Junior Orchestra, Big Band, Piano Circus, SH Choir and Girls' Close Harmony. Each ensemble brought something unique to the stage, contributing to a mesmerising celebration of musical excellence.

Vexations and Resolutions once again demonstrated the vibrancy and passion of music at Blundell's and the remarkable achievements of the pupils who make it all possible.



Congratulations to Reuben, who has been awarded a provisional Choral Scholarship from Keble College, Oxford.

Reuben prepared extensively for his audition, which involved solo performances, sight reading and aural tests and this recognition is a wonderful reflection of his dedication and musical talent.

We now wish Reuben every success in his forthcoming academic application to Oxford.



Ginevra opening of the Minehead & Exmoor Music Festival

Congratulations to Ginevra for her outstanding musical achievements. She opened the Minehead & Exmoor Music Festival on Saturday 26th July with a remarkable solo recital. Performing a challenging programme in four different languages, Ginevra captivated the audience not only with her vocal talent but also with her thoughtful introductions and personal reflections on each piece. Her recital was a highlight of the festival's opening and demonstrated both her technical ability and expressive artistry.

Later in the summer, Ginevra furthered her musical journey by taking part in the Rodolphus Foundation Choral Course at Selwyn College, Cambridge. Singing alongside aspiring choral scholars and professional musicians, she gained invaluable experience and inspiration in a world-class choral setting.



Celebrating Outstanding Music Exam Success

We are delighted to celebrate two pupils on their fantastic music examination results this term. To the left of the photo, Lana achieved a Distinction in Grade 8 Piano alongside a Merit in Grade 8 Singing. To the right, William achieved a Distinction in Grade 8 Piano. Very well done to both on this outstanding achievement and for all their hard work. We are also proud of all pupils for their excellent ABRSM and Trinity results this term, with further exceptional results being Grade 6 distinctions from Jemima, Singing, Kathy, Piano, and Joseph, Cello.



House Music 2025 was a brilliant evening of talent, teamwork and house spirit. The competition began with the Solo Final, featuring the winners from the heats on Monday. Congratulations to Ginevra (Year 12) who won the overall prize for her beautiful singing.

The ensembles were of the highest quality in recent memory, with every house delivering polished performances. The trophy went to Francis House for their lively rendition of September, while the hotly contested House Song award went to Gorton House for their enthusiastic performance of Footloose. Calvin (Year 10) received the Best Individual Contribution Award for his characterful singing and virtuosic piano playing, and Dominic (Year 12) was commended for performing on four instruments in Petergate's ensemble.

The Overall Winners were North Close, whose ambitious and energetic programme, culminating in a full-hearted performance of Avril Lavigne's Girlfriend, impressed our visiting adjudicator Mrs Jemima Moran, Head of Music at Axe Valley Academy. She praised the pupils for their musicianship and creativity, noting how tough it was to choose the winners in such a high standard competition.

A final congratulations goes to the Year 12 Music Captains, whose organisation and inspiring leadership ensured a fantastic evening for everyone involved.

Year 7 Orchestral Instrument Fair

Our Year 7 pupils recently enjoyed an engaging introduction to the world of orchestral instruments. Visiting Music Teachers performed short pieces on a wide range of instruments, showcasing every section of the orchestra. Pupils then had the chance to try the instruments for themselves, including trumpet, bassoon, flute, violin, cello and more.

Several pupils have since signed up for individual lessons, and we look forward to supporting them on their orchestral journey. Pupils learning an orchestral instrument are warmly encouraged to join our Junior Orchestra on Tuesday afternoons and, as they grow in confidence, to progress into our fantastic 80 strong Symphony Orchestra.



Junior Candlelit Christmas Concert

Towards the end of term, our Years 3-8 pupils filled Big School with festive cheer at our Candlelit Christmas Concert. It was a joy to see so many talented musicians from across both the Prep and Senior Schools making music together.

Highlights included a lively performance of Merry Christmas Everyone by the Junior Orchestra, uplifting songs from the Prep School Pop Choir and School House Choir, and a series of beautifully played solos and small ensemble pieces.

The evening truly captured the spirit of the season and celebrated the incredible musical talent within our school community.



Full Colours

Congratulations to Delilah and Reuben on being awarded Full Colours for Music.



AUTUMN 25

Basketball

The Blundell's Bulls made the journey to the neutral venue of Wellington School this term for the Final Four playoffs of the South West Schools League.

Our semi-final against Millfield came after a strong term of preparation, with the squad working hard in training and producing some fantastic, flowing team basketball. This hard work paid off as we secured a thumping win against a highly skilled, well-drilled Millfield side. Guard play was excellent from Crespo, Harper, Johan and Norman, supported by strong forward play from Morgan and Luke, who rebounded superbly.

The team then progressed to the final to face an unbeaten Taunton side featuring very talented international players who had been playing since they could probably walk. Taunton had soundly beaten us in October, but we were now a different team and confident going into the championship match.

The players did Blundell's proud, never taking a backwards step and battling back from eight points down to lead with just one minute to go. Our defence was superb, leading to fast-break basketball against a Taunton side who had also found their rhythm. We held a one-point advantage in the final minute, but two free throws under pressure were enough to give Taunton a one-point win. The defeat will hurt, as we had our chances, but one learns more from losses than wins, and the boys showed huge character pushing a strong Taunton team all the way.

It has been a great season, with basketball in a strong place at Blundell's thanks to a fantastic group of Blundellians who showed a superb attitude throughout the term. We now have a thriving girls' team who also enjoyed success, beating



schools such as Uffculme, Millfield and local club teams like the Devon Bucks. This is the fourth straight year the Bulls have made the Final Four, and this agonisingly close second-place finish will hopefully be remembered positively. Basketball continues to grow, and it is clear all Blundellians have enjoyed playing the game.

All players acquitted themselves superbly in both victory and defeat. Particular mentions go to Luke, Morgan, Olly, Crespo, Johan and Harper in their final season as Blundell's Bulls; thank you for leaving the game in a stronger place than you found it.

Rugby



It's been a successful season for Blundell's Rugby with nearly 100 games over the course of the first term. The Year 7's enjoyed their first season at the senior school and gelled well playing some expansive rugby, quite often against much bigger opponents. The U13's had an unforgettable season with the A team playing some very impressive rugby to go unbeaten over the course of the season, with notable wins over Clifton, Kingswood and Ivybridge. Two mixed U13 teams also shared the trophy after a 15 - 15 draw in the final of the Mount Kelly 10's. Some notable additions to the U14's gave them a lot more depth and improved the quality throughout the squad. The U15's had a positive season, picking

up some real momentum as we ran through to the end of the season, they also had plenty of success at St Joseph's festival with impressive wins over Campion and Finborough, but unfortunately losing 3 - 0 in the Bowl final. The U16's picked up some very impressive wins including Clifton and Kingswood. A number of U16's played up for an U17 team which had a big win over Kingsey U18's. The strength of the U16's bodes well for the U18's next season.

The 3rd XV was a big success this year with a large number of players starting and playing rugby for the first time. The 2nd XV played some great rugby and only lost one game over the course of the season, showing the impressive depth at

U18 level. Finally, the 1st XV improved on last year, working hard in pre-season they gelled quickly to get off to a good start with wins over Kings Taunton, Taunton in the cup and Exeter all within 7 days. We had some tough games against Cheltenham, Kingswood and Clifton through the middle of the season before a strong finish to the season with a win against Canford, a tough 12 all draw away at Taunton before a final game against Ivybridge and the last opportunity for a number of boys to play on Big Field. With the success on the field, we are very proud to have two players involved with the Chiefs Academy U16's Angus and Austin, plus Rory being involved with Bristol Bears U17's Academy.

Full Colours

Congratulations to Harvey (far left) and Toby for being awarded Full Colours for Rugby. Myrtle and Matilda (right) were awarded Full Colours for Hockey.



Golf Simulator

The new facility has transformed what we can offer, allowing golf to be played all year round. It has given our best golfers a consistent platform to practise, while also increasing exposure for new golfers and those keen to develop their game. The enthusiasm across the groups this term has been fantastic.



Blundell's Pupils Shine at the South West Schools Championship

Day one of the South West Public Schools Championship saw the Blundell's team make an impressive start, finishing 3rd out of nine competing schools to secure a place in the semi-finals.

In the morning, Blundell's claimed a hard-fought 3-2 victory over a strong Taunton side, earning their place in the afternoon final. Despite an excellent performance against the Burnham Juniors team, the squad finished as runners-up overall and notably, the highest-placed school in the competition.

A fantastic achievement and a testament to the team's skill, determination, and teamwork throughout the championship.



Outstanding Swimming Success for Rose at the Speedo Aquatics GB Next Gen Championships

Huge congratulations to Rose, who has just returned from an incredible term competing at the Speedo Aquatics GB Next Gen Championships at Ponds Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield.

Facing the very best young swimmers in the country, Rose achieved an exceptional set of results:

- 9th in Britain – 50m Breaststroke
- 12th in Britain – 100m Breaststroke
- 18th in Britain – 200m Breaststroke

These outstanding performances are a testament to Rose's dedication, determination, and talent in the pool. The whole school community is immensely proud of her achievements.

Cross Country Success!

Congratulations to all our cross country runners who qualified for, and raced in, the Exeter vs East Devon Championships. A fantastic effort from everyone involved!

A special well-done to Martha, Josh and Willow, who have all qualified for the Devon Championships.

Well done, Team Blundell's!



Congratulations to Anastasia who achieved an outstanding 3rd place at the World Kickboxing Championships in September.

Competing against top athletes from across the globe, Anastasia showed remarkable skill, determination and composure on the international stage. We are incredibly proud of her success and look forward to seeing what she achieves next.



Kickboxing Success for Izzy

(Year 9, North Close)

This term we are delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Izzy, who has enjoyed a remarkable first year competing in kickboxing. Despite only recently beginning to compete at this level, Izzy has already secured English, British and World titles, an extraordinary accomplishment for her debut season.

Most notably, Izzy was awarded the Bronze Points Fighting World Champion title at the Kickboxing World Championships, ranking her 3rd in the world in her category. This achievement not only reflects her talent, but also her commitment and determination in balancing training and competition with her busy school life.

Izzy has now been selected to represent England at the World Cup in Austria later this year. We are immensely proud of her success to date and look forward to following her journey as she continues to excel on the international stage.



Ellie Named Devon Cricket U14 Girls Player of the Year

Huge congratulations to Ellie, who has been named Devon Cricket U14 Girls Player of the Year, an incredible achievement that recognises her hard work, dedication, and outstanding talent on the field.

This well-deserved honour is a testament to Ellie's commitment and passion for the sport. Well done, Ellie we are all so proud of you!

Girls Hockey 2025

The Autumn term has been an outstanding and memorable season for girls' hockey at Blundell's, marked by record participation, high-level performance, and continued growth across the programme. A highlight of the term was undoubtedly the opening of the wonderful new astro, which was officially christened with a mixed boys' and girls' fixture, a brilliant occasion that showcased the strength and unity of hockey within the school.

Across the term we completed over 120 fixtures, with all age groups showing commitment, enthusiasm, and development week by week. The U15A team stood out in particular, finishing their block fixtures unbeaten. Huge congratulations must go to Mr H and the squad for their superb efforts and consistency throughout the season. Our U12B & U14B teams have also had a phenomenal season with over 80% win record; congratulations to the girls for their outstanding consistency throughout the term.

Representative honours were another success, with several pupils achieving TA selection – well done to Sanna, Genevieve, Tilly, Matt, Xander and Spencer. A special mention to Sanna, who has

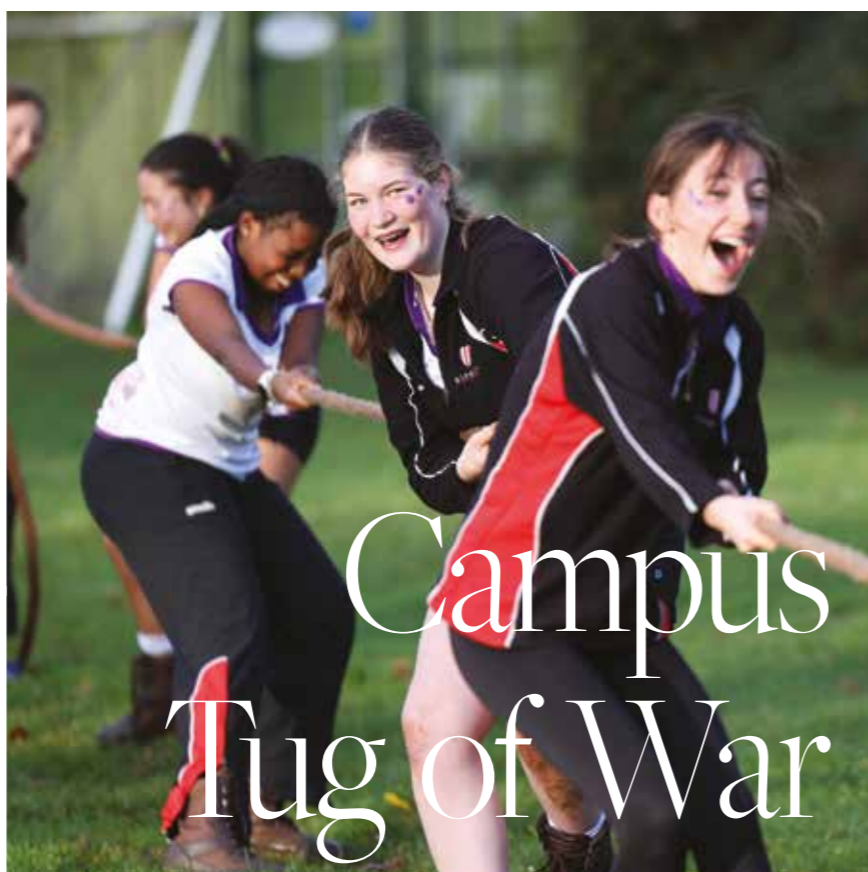
been selected for the U16 England Age Group Squad, a phenomenal achievement and testament to her work ethic, consistency, and desire to improve. It has been a privilege to support her as she progresses on this exciting pathway.

Indoor hockey has also flourished this term, with boys and girls training together in the new improved indoor facility. Training fixtures against Wellington and Queen's set us up well for the West Prelims, where the U18 girls unfortunately missed out on the Regional Finals despite remaining unbeaten. The boys, however, continued their strong form in making it through to the Regional Finals and reaching the semi-finals, narrowly losing to the eventual champions.

During October half-term, 20 House girls enjoyed a successful three-day tour to Cardiff, mixing sightseeing, team bonding, and competitive fixtures.

Our 1st Team, led superbly by Captain Matilda, have embodied drive, determination, and leadership. Alongside her, U6 players Annie and Myrtle have been outstanding, we will miss both enormously as they move on from the senior programme.

A huge thank you to all of the staff who have shown unwavering commitment and dedication throughout this term to give such a positive season to our Girls Programme. Merry Christmas!!



Campus Tug of War

Field Day

This term's Field Day once again saw the whole school step beyond the classroom to take part in inspiring, active and thought-provoking experiences across the South West and beyond.

Year 7 explored the wonders of the underwater world at Plymouth Aquarium, while Year 8 enjoyed a literary-themed adventure in London with a visit connected to the world of Harry Potter. Year 9 pupils spent the day engaged in meaningful volunteering projects within the local community, and Year 10 set out on two different pathways, one group taking to the River Dart for the adventurous CRS programme, while the other travelled to Somerset for an outdoor and leadership development experience.

Year 11's visit to Black Rock was a fantastic start to their GCSE year, filled with teamwork, friendship and enthusiasm, as pupils supported one another through challenges both on land and in the water. Their positivity and determination made for a memorable and encouraging beginning to the year.

Older pupils also broadened their horizons through activity and aspiration. Year 12 pupils took part in community partnership work and training for Ten Tors. Members of the Phoenix Society from Years 9 and 10 enjoyed a thought-provoking trip to Oxford, from hands-on scientific exploration to theatrical historical re-enactment and a guided tour of the city.

Field Day continues to capture the spirit of Blundell's adventurous, outward-looking, intellectually curious, firmly grounded in a commitment to learning beyond the classroom.

Year 11 Black Rock



Phoenix Society Trip to Oxford

Pupils from Years 9 and 10 in the Phoenix Society, our extracurricular group for the intellectually curious, enjoyed an inspiring trip to Oxford on Field Day. The day began with an engaging Evolution Workshop at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, where pupils explored scientific ideas through hands-on activities. They then ventured into the fascinating and infamous Pitt Rivers Museum, discovering its vast collection of anthropological artefacts.

In the afternoon, the group visited Oxford Castle and Prison, where they took part in a lively theatrical reenactment of the historical trial of Mary Blandy. This immersive experience brought the past vividly to life and sparked thought-provoking discussions. The visit concluded with a guided tour of Oxford's historic city centre, offering pupils deeper insight into the university's heritage and cultural significance.

The pupils returned inspired and eager to continue exploring big ideas, a true reflection of the Phoenix Society's spirit of curiosity and learning.



The Williams Cup 2025

The Williams Cup 2025 was a brilliant showcase of teamwork, resilience, and house spirit. Over two days, pupils faced a range of outdoor challenges from problem-solving and navigation to bouldering, weaselling, and carrying buckets of water down the tor — all demanding cooperation and perseverance.

Clear skies made for unforgettable stargazing on Haytor with Dr AO, while shelters built overnight tested resilience in the cold. Daytime brought new challenges, including team-building in Haytor Quarry where Petergate's 480m gutter ball run stood out.

The Endeavour Award went to Will, a new pupil who impressed with calm leadership, navigation skills, and determination. Maria, Darcey, and James were also highly commended for their courage and positivity.

After a close contest, NC claimed the Williams Cup 2025, showing consistency and teamwork throughout.



Ten Tors

This term has seen remarkable progress across our Ten Tors programme, with both the 35-mile and 45-mile teams demonstrating resilience, focus and impressive leadership as they tackled increasingly challenging Dartmoor routes. Training began strongly, with early practice walks completed at pace and with confident map-and-compass navigation, setting a solid foundation for the months ahead. Pupils showed maturity and teamwork as they supported one another across demanding terrain and unpredictable weather conditions — from mist and limited visibility to long, brisk routes carrying full packs. With two teams vying for a single place on the 45-mile challenge, healthy competition has brought out the best in our pupils, encouraging determination, fortitude and collaborative problem-solving. The term has reflected the very essence of Ten Tors: endurance, leadership and shared achievement.



Blundell's Shooting Team Impress at the Marlborough Sporting Clay Shield

The Blundell's Shooting Team travelled to Barbury Shooting Ground on Monday 14th October for the annual Marlborough School Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition. The event drew together some of the country's top shooting schools, including Bloxham, Millfield, Radley, Harrow, St Edward's, Glenalmond and Bradfield, ensuring a highly competitive day.

In ideal conditions, the team performed superbly, finishing an impressive third overall. Leading the scores was Jasper with 35 out of 40, closely followed by Boris with 34, Tom with 31, Wilf with 29, and Dan with 28 in his first competition since before Easter. The team also took part in a fast-paced "flush" shoot of simulated driven birds, testing reactions, teamwork and communication under pressure — an event they handled with enthusiasm and composure.

It was a commendable performance that showed real promise for the season ahead. With continued practice and focus, the team looks well placed to build on this success.

Congratulations to Dan, who continues as Captain of Shooting for the coming year, and to Tom, newly appointed as Vice-Captain.

Pringle Trophy 2025

Over the weekend, eight of our pupils represented Blundell's CCF at the prestigious Pringle Trophy, the ultimate test for Royal Marine Cadets across the UK. Having earned promotion to the higher tier last year, the team once again demonstrated outstanding skill, resilience and determination.

Competing against schools from as far away as Perth in Scotland, our cadets finished 6th in the country, maintaining their place in the elite higher tier for another year. The demanding two-day event tested every aspect of their training, from endurance and teamwork to leadership and problem-solving.

From early morning starts after a cold night in the drill shed to tackling a gruelling endurance course featuring tunnels, icy water and submerged obstacles, the cadets were pushed to their limits. Further challenges included section attacks, contact drills, command tasks and close-quarter battle scenarios — all completed under competition conditions.

The team came close to victory in several areas, particularly in Contact Drills and Fire Control Orders, and scored over 80% across most disciplines. Their grit, teamwork and leadership were exemplary.

Special thanks go to the CCF staff team for their dedication and support, whose expertise and commitment continue to inspire our cadets to achieve at the highest level.

A Taste of Germany!

Towards the end of term, our school community enjoyed a wonderful German Christmas market style event, organised by several of our German pupils including those who will be leaving us at Christmas and wanted to share a little of their culture before they go. From festive treats to traditional decorations, pupils and staff alike embraced the atmosphere, with plenty of laughter during the lunchtime quiz and prizes.

A heartfelt thank you to our fantastic catering team, whose creativity and enthusiasm once again helped turn a brilliant idea into a brilliant experience.



Bolham Primary Visit



Tidcombe Primary School Visit



World Mental Health Day



Garden Open Day



Literary Festival

Charity Wine Tasting



Gemma from The Jolly Vintner curated another superb evening, guiding us through a wonderful selection of fine wines.

Thanks to your generosity, the event raised over £1.5k for our School Charities: CHAT, Hospiscare, and the Restory Foundation.



Last term, Blundell's raised over £5,000 for charity through home-clothes days, the Year 9 Apprentice Charity Challenge, selling Blundell's PJs, a charity hockey match, and the staff November effort. We've even launched a Blundell's Vinted account, with every penny going to good causes.

Many of these projects were created and led by pupils — including Chloe, Heidi, and Edie — and we're hugely proud of their initiatives.

But more importantly, it hasn't just been about raising money. The Charity Team has delivered thoughtful Chapels to raise awareness about the causes we support. Also, the thoughtfulness and enthusiasm shown by tutor groups as we 'gave' at Christmas was genuinely heart-warming. The Blundell's Christmas Appeal this year challenged all tutor groups to give, either time or money. The winners of the challenge were Mrs Hadley's group who made an art table that was donated to Tiverton Hospital. Congratulations to them and hope they enjoy their pizza party.



50 Years of Girls at Blundell's A Night to Remember

On Saturday 4th October, Blundell's welcomed more than 150 Old Blundellians, former House Parents, and staff to celebrate 50 Years of Girls at Blundell's. We were thrilled by the fantastic turnout, with some year groups achieving full attendance and many guests travelling long distances to join us.

A standout moment of the evening was a performance by our A Level Drama pupils, who presented an extract from the play "The Blue Stockings" by Jessica Swale. Their chosen scene perfectly captured the strength and influence of

women who have broken boundaries, an inspiring tribute to the pioneering girls whose legacy continues to shape Blundell's today.

The celebration was filled with shared memories, laughter, and renewed friendships. It was wonderful to see old friends reconnect, reminding us how special and enduring the Blundell's community truly is.

With delicious food, lively conversation, and an old-school disco that brought everyone to the dancefloor, it was an unforgettable evening and a highlight in the School's history.



Snow Ball 2025 A Sparkling Start to the Festive Season

The Snow Ball 2025 was a glittering evening of celebration as the Blundell's community came together to kick off the festive season in style. Guests enjoyed a delicious three-course meal crafted by Executive Chef Ankur, alongside plenty of bubbly and wine to set the tone for the night.

Entertainment from our much-loved band I Love Amp kept the dance floor full, while Exeter Brewery ensured no one went thirsty, setting what may be a new record for the fastest flow of Baby Guinness! With a Formula 1 simulator and casino tables adding to the fun, the atmosphere was lively from start to finish.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and for the generosity shown during the Auction and Raffle, with all proceeds supporting Blundell's Community Projects and the Foundation's Bursary Fund.

Here's to an even more spectacular Snow Ball in 2026!





A Toast to Heritage and Community

Blundell's is delighted to raise a glass (or two!) to our newest creations: 1604 Blundell's Beer and 1604 Gin, two drinks that celebrate our history, our community, and a bit of festive cheer.

In November, Director of Foundation Tom Cowle teamed up with Old Blundellians Peter Price and James Sessions-Hodge for a special brewing day at St Austell Brewery. Under the expert (and very patient) guidance of Assistant Brewing Manager Barnaby Skerrett, the trio rolled up their sleeves and got stuck into the whole process, from sniffing hops to overseeing the brew. Tradition, teamwork, and plenty of laughter were very much on the menu, and the result is a distinctive beer that truly bottles the Blundellian spirit.

And it doesn't stop there. The launch of 1604 Gin adds a beautifully crafted companion to the range, handmade in Devon and infused with classic botanicals plus rose and elderflower lovingly grown right here in the Blundell's garden. It's heritage with a deliciously modern twist.

The 1604 collection also shines a light on something equally important: the generosity of our community. Regular giving helps widen access through bursaries, enrich learning, enhance pupil experiences, and preserve the School's heritage. That's where the 1604 Club comes in, our annual giving circle, named after our founding year, offering a simple and meaningful way to support Blundell's year after year.

Join the 1604 Club today and help shape Blundell's future. Here's to new traditions, a thriving community, and excellent taste!



Richard Sharp OBE (1938–2025)

Richard Sharp OBE was born in Mysore, India, and raised in Cornwall. Richard attended Montpelier School before arriving at Blundell's, where his academic and athletic promise quickly shone through. He went on to study at Balliol College, Oxford, balancing scholarship with outstanding sporting achievements.

Richard earned 14 caps for England, captaining the national side to a famous Five Nations victory in 1963. His solo try against Scotland in that match

remains one of rugby's most iconic moments. He also toured with the British & Irish Lions in 1962, scoring 45 points across 11 matches, and played for Cornwall, Redruth, Wasps, Bristol, the Royal Navy and the Barbarians.

Alongside rugby, Richard represented Cornwall in Minor Counties cricket and was awarded an OBE for services to sport. He even inspired the name of Bernard Cornwell's fictional hero, Richard Sharpe.

At Blundell's, he is remembered not only for his sporting excellence but for his enduring loyalty, warmth and generosity. A regular at OB events, Richard remained a cherished figure in the school community throughout his life.



Angus Rackham (FH 2019–24)

Angus, fondly known as Gus, Nip or Whippet, was a true Blundellian — kind, spirited and full of life. Even after leaving school, he remained deeply connected, returning for OB Day at the first opportunity, catching up with friends, playing Fives, or sneaking in for his beloved Blundell's breakfast.

A memorial service was held in Blundell's Chapel on Saturday 22 November, where a packed congregation of family, friends, and former teachers gathered to celebrate his life. Warm and moving tributes were shared, followed by a reception in Big School.

In Latin Prayer, Head Bart Wielenga reflected: "Angus loved Blundell's very much. His family has deep roots here — his older brother Harry also boarded from Year 5 in Francis House, and his mother, Katharine, was the first Head Girl of Blundell's. Angus was very much his own man. He didn't belong to a particular group or clique — he was liked by everyone, because he was kind to everyone. He just loved being involved and made the most of every day."

Angus will be remembered with great affection by all who knew him — for his warmth, his humour, and the lasting impression he made on the Blundell's community.

Remembering Peter Dickinson

Former Head of Mathematics and Housemaster of Thornton House

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Peter Dickinson, a much-admired and long-serving member of staff whose connection to Blundell's spanned over three decades, from 1964 to 1997, and continued long after his retirement.

Pete joined the School in a remarkable cohort of new staff who went on to serve Blundell's for more than a century combined. A gifted and dedicated teacher of Mathematics, he later became Head of Department, leading the modernisation of the curriculum in the 1980s. He also served as Examinations Officer, timetable coordinator, and was a steady hand behind the scenes.

As Housemaster of Thornton House, and a long-time tutor in OH, Peter played a formative role in the lives of many pupils. He was a committed supporter of Chapel life and helped establish Cross Country as a valued school sport, believing deeply in the importance of challenge, character and camaraderie.

In retirement, Peter remained a loyal friend to the School and the OB Club. He will be remembered with great affection for his quiet wisdom, steadfast care and the stability he offered so many. He gave much, and he will be much missed.



2026

January

Tues 20th	18:00	School House Parents Dinner Party	Beale Centre	Social
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February

Mon 2nd	19:00	Speech & Drama Showcase	Ondaatje Hall	Social
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Tues 3rd	19:00	School House Dinner Party	Beale Centre	Social
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Wed 11th	19:00	Spring Concert: 'The Elements'	Big School	Music
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March

Sat 7th	14:00	The Russell		Sport
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Sat 21st	08:45	Guest Morning for parents of Year 5 Blundell's Prep families	Big School	Academic
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Mon 23rd- Fri 27th		Rosslyn Park Rugby 7s	Rosslyn Park	Sport
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Tues 24th- Thurs 26th		The Lion King	Ondaatje Hall	Drama
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Blundell's

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