

Diary

SPRING 2026



THE
*LION
KING*

SCHOOL HOUSE
SPRING PLAY



Blundell's

FOUNDED 1604

2025 ISI INSPECTION REPORT
PROUD TO BE AWARDED 2 SIGNIFICANT STRENGTHS

Only 1 in 10 schools receive one significant strength, Blundell's has received two.
This is a truly remarkable achievement.



SCAN TO READ A SUMMARY OF OUR ISI REPORT



WELCOME



The Spring Term is, in my opinion, the most difficult term. It is also the most rewarding. It is undoubtedly the busiest. The pages of the Diary set out very clearly just how much has happened over the past three months.

The Spring Concert was ambitious and creative, themed around The Elements, it explored science and music. A few weeks later the choir performed Handel's Messiah to a very high standard in the chapel. The problem with The Messiah is that most people have heard it so expectations are invariably high. We were not disappointed as 12 different pupils sang solos and when the choir finished with 'Worthy is the Lamb' – the Amen chorus – it is unlikely the chapel has ever heard anything like it. Music has a powerful way of bringing great joy to its audience and both the Spring Concert and the Choral performance did that in spades.

The School House (Year 7 & 8) pupils then performed The Lion King in the final week of term. With a cunning Scar, a cheeky Simba, a raucous Pumba and Timon, a dubious pack of hyaenas, and an imposing Mufasa, they brought the Savanna to life with familiar tunes brilliantly delivered. It was a great way to end for our youngest pupils and their wholehearted commitment to the project was beyond doubt.

The Spring Term is chaotic for the number of sports played. The 1st XI boys' hockey team made it through to the semi final of the Tier 2 National Plate competition, finally losing 3 – 2 to King's College, Wimbledon, in front of a big crowd of home supporters. Our young 1st VII netball team built on the success of last season and Blundell's reputation on the netball circuit continues to grow. The Football club won 18 out of 25 fixtures across the board despite hardly playing in the first half of term due to waterlogged pitches. Pre-season cricket sessions started in January with Dean Headley, our Director of Cricket, supervising sessions at 06:30 every morning. The enthusiasm for the game is reflected in the number of pupils who routinely arrived in the dark ready to put in a good shift before breakfast. And then the term ended with the wonderful Rosslyn Park National Sevens tournament. This is undoubtedly one of the sporting highlights of the year for Blundellians and we were proud to send seven teams – four boys' and three girls' teams. The U16 girls were our most successful team of the week, although the U13 boys gave us a glimpse of things to come, winning 4 out of their 5 matches. With the Blundell's marquee prominently positioned on RE1's main avenue, the school was well represented and supported by Old Blundellians and parents alike.

The pages of this Diary will bring to life these and many more activities and highlights from this past term. I hope you enjoy the read.

B. Wielenga.


Mr Bart Wielenga BCom, BEd (Hons) Natal
 HEAD OF BLUNDELL'S


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SPRING FULL COLOURS

We are delighted to celebrate the pupils who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and achievement this term. Their dedication and the example they set across our school community make us incredibly proud. Their success is richly deserved, and we look forward to seeing all they accomplish next.
Full Colours announced at the end of the Spring Term Assembly, will be featured in the Summer edition of The Diary magazine.

Congratulations to you all!



ARBY
Full colours for Art



HENRY
Full colours for Music



JESS
Full colours for Equestrian



KIT
Full colours for Hockey



LANA
Full colours for Music



LUKA
Full colours for Hockey



MORGAN
Full colours for Hockey



REUBEN
Full colours for Academic



TOBY
Full colours for Music



WILL M-W
Full colours for Music



WILL R
Full colours for Rugby



XANTHE
Full colours for Outdoor Pursuits



REUBEN, DAISY, ED AND MAT



ROSE



NIC

UNIVERSITY

OFFERS SUCCESS

We are delighted to celebrate the exciting university offers received by several of our pupils this year, reflecting their hard work, ambition and global outlook.

Rose has secured a combined Academic and Swimming Scholarship to Stony Brook University in the United States, where she will compete at NCAA Division I level. As the largest university in New York State, Stony Brook offers an excellent balance of academic challenge and elite sport.

We are also thrilled to share success in Oxbridge applications. **Daisy** has received an offer from the University of Cambridge to study Economics at Murray Edwards College, while **Ed** has an offer to read Natural Sciences at Christ's College, Cambridge. They join **Mat** and **Reuben**, who have both secured offers from the University of Oxford to study English with Modern Languages and Law respectively.

Further international success comes from **Nic**, who has received an academic scholarship offer from the University of Notre Dame in the United States, an exceptional achievement given its highly competitive admissions.

We are also pleased to highlight further university successes across our cohort. **Jeanne** will study Veterinary Medicine at the Royal Veterinary College, while **Ryan** has received an offer from Northeastern University and **Joy** from the University of Melbourne. **Kin** has achieved an outstanding set of offers from McGill University, Penn State University, the University of Sydney, the University of Queensland and the University of Melbourne, while **Teru** has received an offer from Sophia University in Japan. These successes reflect the breadth of opportunities available and the ambition of our pupils.



YEAR 13 VISIT TO HEATHCOAT FABRICS

Our Year 13 A-Level Business pupils enjoyed an eye-opening visit to Heathcoat's Factory this week. Although they pass it every day, seeing the scale, innovation and complexity inside was a powerful experience from military-grade chemical-resistant fabrics to specialist sports padding.

The trip brought classroom theory to life, with pupils exploring differentiation, efficiency, waste minimisation, stock control and quality control in action.

Huge thanks to the Heathcoat's team for such an inspiring and high-impact visit.



YEAR 12 VISIT TO SHEPTON MALLETT PRISON

Year 12 Psychology and Sociology pupils visited Shepton Mallet Prison, exploring its fascinating history.

They learned about changing approaches to crime and punishment before finishing with an engaging escape room challenge.



BLUNDELL'S
STEM WEEK

Pupils at Blundell's took part in a dynamic programme of activities celebrating **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics**. Across the week, pupils explored each element of STEM through hands-on challenges designed to encourage curiosity, collaboration and creative thinking.

Science-focused sessions saw pupils investigating experiments and testing ideas, while technology and engineering activities challenged them to design, build and problem-solve through practical tasks. Mathematics also took centre stage, with pupils tackling puzzles and applying logical thinking to real-world problems.

Throughout the week it was fantastic to see pupils working together, asking questions and developing the critical thinking and resilience that underpin STEM learning. The activities highlighted how these subjects connect and how they shape the world around us.

STEM Week forms an important part of life at Blundell's, inspiring pupils to think creatively, explore new ideas and develop the skills that will support them in the future.

SPACE DESIGN
COMPETITION

Jason, Theo, Anastasiia, Robert and Brandon travelled to Imperial College London to compete in the National Finals of the UK Space Design Competition.

Joining around 200 pupils from across the country, they worked as part of a multidisciplinary team to design a proposal for a lunar South Pole settlement for 5,000 residents within an intense 24-hour challenge.

Although their team didn't take first place, the judges highly commended their presentation. A fantastic achievement and an incredible experience developing teamwork, problem-solving and real-world design skills. Well done to all involved!



ROBOTICS CHALLENGE

The Year 7 Robotics Team travelled to Barnstaple for the North Devon Robotics Challenge. They tackled three practical robot-based challenges, showcasing their problem-solving and creativity.

Blundell's placed an impressive second out of five teams, winning £100 for the Computing Department. Judges praised their communication, creativity, and understanding of the engineering design process. Mr. Cheung congratulated the team on their excellent performance.



CYBERSECURITY WORKSHOP

Our pupils explored the world of cybersecurity, examining real threats, effective defences, and the wide range of careers in this growing field.

Year 9 learned about different cyber threats and how we protect against them, before putting their skills to the test with a cryptography puzzle (with a small prize for the winners). Along the way, they discovered some of the pathways into cybersecurity and the opportunities the field offers.

Year 12 took part in an immersive two-hour workshop, working through a mock scenario simulating a cyber attack. Pupils collaborated under pressure, applying critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, including writing professional public-facing statements while guiding their organisation through the crisis.



PROGRAMMING CHALLENGE

Pupils competed in a programming challenge, working in pairs to test their coding and teamwork skills



100 YEARS OF TELEVISION



The cross-curricular enrichment session explored 100 Years of Television. Year 7 and 8 pupils examined how television has transformed the way we experience major events and access news, considering its significance from a historical perspective.

From a science perspective, pupils explored how televisions work by looking at the function of the cathode ray tube and how electromagnetic forces influence the beam that creates images on a screen. They also investigated the development of colour television, recreating early colour filters and examining the tri-colour pixels used in modern screens to understand how a full spectrum of colours is produced. Pupils were highly engaged throughout, showing great curiosity and making thoughtful connections to other areas of learning, including discussions around screen resolution.

WORLD

BOOK DAY

The English Department had great fun celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th March.

In recognition of the visit from author Tom Palmer on Friday 6th March, this year's theme had a twist: all characters had to begin with the letters T or P. Staff and pupils rose to the challenge, arriving in a fantastic range of creative costumes inspired by their favourite literary characters.

At breaktime, the English Department gathered on the School House patch, where prizes were awarded to pupils in SH for particularly impressive outfits.

A wonderful celebration of books, creativity and imagination across the school.



PHOENIX SOCIETY TRIP TO CARDIFF

Our Academic Scholars enjoyed an inspiring day in Cardiff with the Phoenix Society, going behind the scenes at BBC Cymru Wales, exploring Cardiff Castle and the National Museum, and embracing culture and curiosity beyond the classroom. A wonderful example of academic enrichment in action.

POETRY COMPETITION

This term, in partnership with the Prep School, the English Department held their inaugural Poetry by Heart competition. This national poetry speaking competition invites pupils to learn and perform a poem, with the opportunity to progress to a Grand Finale at Shakespeare's Globe in London.

All Year 7 pupils took part, performing individually or in groups, and we were delighted by the confidence, creativity and enthusiasm on display.

Congratulations to our winners:

Thomas, William and **Edward** for their performance of *Rules* by Brian Patten, and **Nancy** and **Lily** for *Pomegranate* by Imtiaz Dharker. The judges were particularly impressed by their expression, clarity and engaging delivery, and their performances will now be submitted for the national competition.

We are immensely proud of all our Year 7 pupils for their hard work and courage, and wish our winners the very best of luck in the next stage.



ANNIKA HUSSAIN VISIT

We were delighted to welcome author Annika Hussain for an inspiring visit, joined by pupils from Tiverton High and Court Fields alongside our Year 9 girls. She spoke candidly about the writing journey from idea to publication and the realities of rejection, resilience and growth. Her message to embrace feedback and never give up truly resonated. Annika also shared how her YA romance stories are inspired by everyday life, often sparked by overheard conversations. A huge thank you to Annika for such an engaging and motivating session, we left feeling very inspired!



GCSE AND A LEVEL PE REVISION CONFERENCE

We were delighted to host our GCSE and A Level PE Revision Conference in Big School.

Bringing together our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils alongside visiting schools, the day offered valuable insight and expert guidance from a lead examiner, helping pupils build confidence ahead of their summer assessments.



TRIP TO TIVERTON CASTLE

Blundell's pupils took part in a History Enrichment trip exploring the Siege of Tiverton (1645) during the English Civil War. Visiting Tiverton Castle and learning about Blundell's School's role in the conflict helped bring our local history to life.



OLYMPIADS



UKMT TEAM

MATHS CHALLENGE

YEAR 7 MATHS COMPETITION



INTERHOUSE COMPETITION

MATHS SUCCESS

The Mathematics Department have continued to offer a wide range of opportunities for students to extend their problem-solving skills this term, with team competitions being a common theme among them. Often hosting exams for the UK Maths Trust, we have also launched our first Inter-House Team Maths Competition this term.

These have included the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 2, the Intermediate Maths Challenge, the UKMT Team Maths Challenge, the Blundell's Inter-House Team Maths Challenge, and the Millfield Team Maths Challenge.

We have received some exceptional results from our top students, with several qualifying for the training camps for the International Olympiad Teams, and we continue to support and extend students' problem-solving skills.

UK CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

This term, pupils sat the UK Chemistry Olympiad, a highly demanding national competition aimed at the most able Sixth Form chemists. The paper extends well beyond the A-level specification, requiring students to apply their knowledge in unfamiliar and challenging contexts. Blundell's pupils performed exceptionally well. **Ed** (Year 13) achieved 87%, while **Will** (Year 13) scored 56%. Particularly impressive was **Anastasii** (Year 12), who achieved 54% despite competing against predominantly Year 13 students, with all three comfortably securing Gold Awards. This places them firmly within the top 8.5% of 17,241 entrants nationwide. Ed's extraordinary performance secured him a place in Round 2 for selection to the UK team. Remarkably, he reached this stage across all three national Olympiads in Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics, an outstanding and rare achievement that reflects the very highest level of academic excellence.



CHEMISTRY WORKSHOP

The Phoenix Society carried out a science investigation to discover how much iron is inside an iron tablet. Using techniques similar to A-level laboratory experiments, we calculated the percentage of iron and compared it with the amount stated on the label. We also explored why iron is important for haemoglobin in red blood cells and how low levels can lead to deficiency and anaemia. The activity helped develop practical skills, data handling, calculations and scientific reasoning, while connecting classroom science to real-world applications.



OLYMPIAD SUCCESS FOR ED



Over the half-term break, we received news from the British Physics Olympiad and the British Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad that **Ed** had achieved the Highest Gold Award in both of the Round 2 Olympiad papers that he sat during the first half of term

These awards place Ed among the top 24 students nationally in Physics and the top 15 in Astronomy and Astrophysics for his age group. As a result of these achievements, both organisations invited Ed to attend their Easter training camps at Oxford

University, with the hope of securing a place on the British Team for their respective international Olympiads.

This year, the International Physics Olympiad is taking place in Bucaramanga, Colombia, and the International Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad is taking place in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Ed has chosen to attend the Physics Olympiad Easter Camp over the next few weeks. We wish him every success and hope that he secures a place on the British Physics Olympiad Team this year.



MFL TRIP

In February, a group Year 9 linguists attended an exciting Modern Languages event at Queen's College Taunton. Working in teams, pupils were challenged to plan and promote their own international music festival set in a European country. Using French or German, they interviewed potential singers for their line-up, designed a 3D model of their festival site, and created a promotional video to advertise the event. The day was a fantastic opportunity to practise language skills creatively while collaborating with students from other schools. Congratulations to **Kit**, who was recognised for the most creative contribution.



STELLAR DEBATING

It was another evening of stellar debating at Uffculme School for Round 2 of the Inter-School Debating Competition. **Imo, Lucy** and **Izzy** were incredible. The other teams really raised the bar, so we were thrilled to come away with another win!

Imo was highly commended for her argument progression, powerful use of research and compelling delivery.

Round 3 will be in the Summer Term at Wellington School.



MASTERCHEF



ACADEMIC



MASTERCHEF AND FRENCH FOOD COMPETITIONS

At the end of January, our Year 12 and 13 German and French linguists took part in a MasterChef-style competition, creating the classic French dessert, Paris-Brest. From crafting choux pastry to preparing crème pâtissière chantilly and a strawberry coulis, pupils showed impressive perseverance, even when early attempts did not go to plan and the "cornstarch" turned out to be icing sugar.

Undeterred, each team regrouped and supported one another in a lively atmosphere of focus and teamwork. In just an hour and a half, every group produced a finished bake under the watchful eyes of the judges, who offered encouragement and occasional guidance. The creativity on display was outstanding, particularly from those baking for the first time.

Congratulations to **Briac** and **Charlotte** (Year 12), who were crowned MasterChef champions, and well done to all our bakers for an evening of skill, resilience and culinary enjoyment.

More recently, pupils celebrated *Le Mois de la Francophonie* with a French Food Competition judged by an all-French panel.

A wide range of creative dishes impressed the judges - well done to all who took part!



FRENCH FOOD COMPETITION





BLUNDELL'S

CAREERS FAIR



We were delighted to welcome 40 exhibitors to the recent Blundell's Careers Fair, representing an inspiring mix of local and international employers and universities. Around 350 pupils from Blundell's and neighbouring schools attended, many with their families, creating a vibrant and purposeful atmosphere.

Our sincere thanks go to all exhibitors. Their time, insight and willingness to engage in meaningful conversations made a lasting impact, helping pupils explore a wide range of pathways, better understand the skills required across industries, and grow in confidence when speaking with professionals.

The inspiration and encouragement offered on the day will stay with our pupils as they begin to shape their futures. We are extremely grateful to everyone involved in making the Careers Fair such a valuable experience, and offer special thanks to Mrs Bucknell and Miss Parkinson for organising such a successful event.

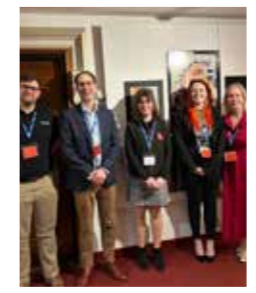
One of our pupils said "I really enjoyed the experience and now know much more about what I want to do in the future."



DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS EVENT

We are so grateful to the employers and providers who joined us for our Degree Apprenticeship Event, giving pupils and parents valuable insight into how these pathways work and what they can offer. Following the talks, pupils enjoyed informal conversations at the stand, asking questions and exploring future pathways.

Our thanks to AECOM, Stags and University of Exeter for sharing your time, expertise and encouragement, helping our pupils make confident, informed choices about their next steps.



We are delighted to celebrate **Jess** who has secured a Surveyor Degree Apprenticeship with Stags.



PENCARRIE VISIT

A huge thank you to PenCarrie for delivering an engaging Year 10 Employer Encounter, where pupils explored the company's growth, career opportunities and key workplace skills before taking part in a fast-paced team challenge to create and pitch outfits for specific customer briefs.

The session was inspiring and memorable, with overwhelmingly positive feedback, and gave pupils valuable insight into careers, collaboration and the skills employers value.



MET OFFICE CLIMATE CAMP

As a Met Office Partner School, we were delighted that three of our Year 8 students were invited to take part in Climate Camp this term. They spent the day with Met Office scientists, gaining first hand insight into careers in climate science and the many roles involved in understanding and responding to climate change. They also helped shape new Education Outreach resources, exploring how young people learn about climate change and evaluating how effectively social media communicates key messages. The group then considered ways our school can decarbonise and build resilience to climate risks. It was an inspiring and empowering experience for all involved.



BEHIND THE SCENES OF BRITISH ENGINEERING

Our D&T Scholars and A-Level Product Design pupils enjoyed an incredible visit to the BMW MINI production plant in Oxford. Seeing the automated body shop in action with hundreds of robotic arms working in perfect precision was truly mind-blowing. Pupils also watched the zig-zagging production line as cars began their journey from a bare chassis to a fully functioning MINI. An awe-inspiring insight into modern manufacturing and design in action.



GCSE AND A-LEVEL PERFORMANCES

Year 11 GCSE pupils performed extracts of their examination selections and Year 13 A-Level pupils performed an abridged version of *Things I Know to be True*.



A CELEBRATION OF CREATIVITY IN THE ART DEPARTMENT

Blundell's Art Department recently celebrated creativity across all year groups with a vibrant programme of artistic activity and exhibitions. Year 9 pupils enjoyed a full Art Day, immersing themselves in hands-on workshops led by visiting artists. They collaborated on a striking large-scale batik of the school with Laura Grant, explored structure and imagination through cardboard bird sculptures with James Lake, and experimented with texture and pattern in ceramic tile design alongside Zoe Crockford. Our Art Scholars were challenged with an open brief, resulting in a diverse and ambitious exhibition in Ondaatje. The collection showcased individuality, technical skill, and creative confidence, reflecting the strength of artistic talent across the school.

Year 12 pupils also benefited from a dedicated life drawing session, refining their observational skills, understanding of proportion, and expressive mark-making.

Creativity continued in the Shell House Art Competition, where pupils responded to the theme "Myself" in any medium. Congratulations to **Darcie** (1st), **Posy** (2nd), and **Nell** (3rd).

Finally, the annual Staff Art Exhibition brought together colleagues from across the school community, celebrating a shared passion for the visual arts.



A-LEVEL DRAMA TRIP

WEST END WONDERS!

A group of our A-Level pupils recently enjoyed a memorable theatre trip to London, experiencing a rich and varied programme across the capital. Following arrival at Paddington Station, the visit began with an immersive experience at The London Dungeon, where pupils explored key moments in London's history.

The itinerary continued with an evening performance of *The Playboy of the Western World* at the National Theatre. The following day included a backstage tour of the historic Theatre Royal Drury Lane (est. 1663), alongside a singing workshop based on *Operation Mincemeat*, before attending the production in the West End. The trip concluded with a matinee performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Shakespeare's Globe, followed by an evening performance of *Ballet Shoes*.

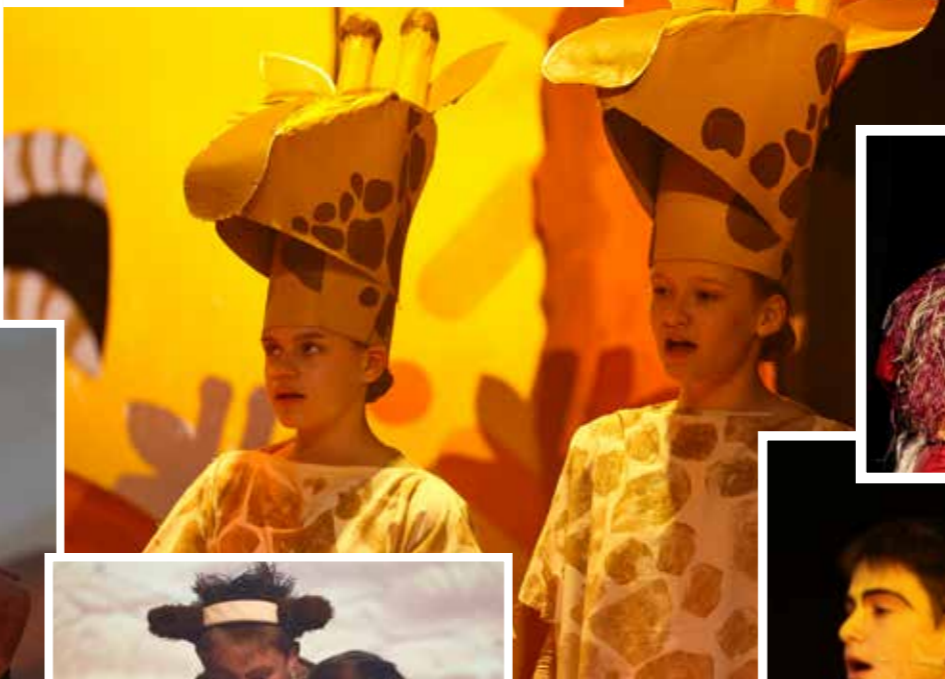
Combining live performance, professional workshops and behind-the-scenes insight, the visit provided pupils with a valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding of theatre. Experiences such as these play a vital role in bringing A-level Drama to life beyond the classroom.



NYMT SUCCESS FOR BRYONY

Fantastic news for **Bryony**: she has been selected for a prestigious Skills Workshop with the National Youth Music Theatre, following a highly competitive audition process for the 2026 Company, with over 3,000 applicants and around 150 places offered.

This significant honour reflects her exceptional talent and dedication, and we are incredibly proud as she takes this exciting next step in her performing arts journey.



THE
LION KING

School House's production proved to be a truly memorable highlight of the term, inspired by the enduring magic and theatrical brilliance of *The Lion King*. From the outset, the aim was to capture not only the much-loved music, but also the extraordinary imagination and visual storytelling that make the original so captivating.

The pupils embraced the challenge with remarkable energy, enthusiasm and commitment. From the first rehearsal, they demonstrated a genuine willingness to push themselves, refining complex songs and developing their performances with maturity and confidence. Their dedication shone through in a production that was heartfelt, sincere and full of spirit.

This production was very much a collective effort. Grateful thanks go to Miss Atkins for her outstanding musical direction, Mr. Rochfort for his artistic guidance, and Miss Richards for her support with choreography. The stunning masks and props, created under Ms. Crockford's guidance, alongside the set, technical support and backstage teamwork, all contributed to a visually striking and polished performance.

Above all, it was the pupils' passion and teamwork that made *The Lion King* such a special success.



A particular highlight of the process was the opportunity for the cast to take part in a choreography workshop at Pineapple Studios, followed by a West End performance. This invaluable experience deepened their understanding of ensemble work and physical storytelling, elements they brought vividly to life on stage.





SPRING CONCERT

THE ELEMENTS

The Elements, was performed in two concerts to 900 people. Exploring Earth, Air, Water and Fire, the concert brought together music and science in a performance that was as imaginative as it was ambitious, with live science experiments to accompany the music.

Orchestral showpieces, choral works, chamber ensembles and contemporary pieces combined to create something truly special culminating in Quintessence, the mysterious fifth element, which drew the evening together in a powerful and unifying finale.

More than a concert, it was a celebration of collaboration across year groups, creativity in action, and the confidence of pupils stepping into the spotlight.

A wonderful evening and a proud moment for our whole school community.



The impressive Spring Concert was supported by all teams, with Porters setting up the staging and Catering providing fabulous food including fiery chicken wings and chocolate soil with jelly worms!

SPRING INTO MUSIC

This has been a busy and productive Spring Term for Music at Blundell's, with pupils showing strong commitment and engagement across a wide range of activities. We are pleased to celebrate excellent examination success, including a Distinction at diploma level and a number of Grade 8 achievements, reflecting sustained hard work and high standards.

A central highlight of the term was our performance of Handel's Messiah in the Chapel, which brought together the senior choirs, orchestra and pupil soloists in a large-scale and rewarding project. Earlier in the term, the Chamber Choir contributed to the Mothering Sunday service, and pupils also took part in a choral workshop at Merton College, Oxford.

Music Scholars were involved in a collaborative composition project with Bath Philharmonia, performing new works in a student-led concert, while chamber ensembles achieved excellent results in an inter-school competition. The Scholars' Candlelight Concert and Examination Practice Concert provided further opportunities for pupils to perform with confidence and growing musical maturity.

Also, Congratulations to **Ginevra** who won the Taunton Younger Singer Competition in March at the Taunton Festival of the Arts.

Pupils also benefited from workshops with visiting professionals, including a masterclass with Freddie Crowley, and a GCSE trip to Bristol Beacon. Across the term, it has been encouraging to see both the consistency of participation and the continued development in performance across all year groups.

THE 146TH

RUSSELL RACE



Well done to all the pupils who took part in this year's Russell Race. It was fantastic to see such strong participation and determination from everyone involved.

Particular credit goes to those who competed despite having hockey and rugby sevens commitments the following day, demonstrating real commitment and resilience.

In the School House race, the winners were **Storm** (Girls) and **Freddie** (Boys).

The Junior Race was won by **Poppy** of Gorton House (Girls) and **Sam** of Old House (Boys).

In the Senior Race, **Izzy** of Gorton House (Girls) and **Aaron** of Petergate (Boys) took first place.

Thank you to all the staff who supported the event. A great deal of preparation goes into making the Russell Race such a success, and particular thanks go to **Mr Hope** for organizing the day.



FOOTBALL AT BLUNDELL'S

It has been a highly successful football season at Blundell's, with over 70 boys involved across the programme.

The 1st XI have won 5 of their 8 fixtures and remain in contention for the league title, while the 2nd XI are unbeaten, winning 4 of 6 and also pushing for top spot.

The 3rd XI have enjoyed a strong season too, winning both of their 11-a-side matches. **ANS**



EQUESTRIAN SUCCESS

A fantastic day for our Blundell's Equestrian team, with superb performances across all classes.

Daisy secured 1st place individually in the 70–75cm class, with **Daisy, Florence** and **Izzy** also finishing 2nd as a team to qualify for Hickstead. In the 80–85cm class, the team won and qualified for both Addington and Hickstead, with Tabitha and Phoebe also placing 6th individually. **Josh, Tabitha** and **Izzy** finished 2nd as a team in their class, while Phoebe also took 2nd place individually in the 90–95cm, qualifying as well.

A superb team effort we are incredibly proud of all our riders.



KICKBOXING SUCCESS FOR IZZY

At the end of term, **Izzy** (Year 9) achieved excellent success at the WMAC English Open Championships in Worcester. Competing in both Point Fighting and Hands Only Point Fighting, she showed impressive determination and technical ability to secure both a Bronze and a Silver medal.

In addition to her individual achievements, Izzy also took on the role of Fight Team Captain, leading with confidence while supporting her teammates and sharing her knowledge. She consistently demonstrated the kindness and sportsmanship that underpin Blundell's values. Izzy now looks ahead to her next competition in May.



LARKMAN CUP

In the last few weeks of the Spring term, the top 12 runners from School House represented the school at the Larkman Cup. Snow, rain and sunshine made for very slippery, muddy conditions, but all runners gave their all. **Freddie** was the first Blundell's runner home, finishing in the top 10, and **Martha** was the first girl to finish. Well done to everyone who took part.



SPRING GOLF IN FULL SWING!

It has been an excellent term for golf at Blundell's. The new simulator facility has provided a high-quality indoor space, allowing pupils to practise daily and develop their golf skills and consistency. Pupils have also benefited from regular coaching with PGA professional Sam Chapman, who has worked with a wide range of pupils and abilities.

As the term progressed, fixtures against King's Taunton and the Old Blundellians at Burnham and Berrow provided valuable competitive experience, with many pupils representing the school for the first time. Participation and enthusiasm have been strong throughout, and the programme continues to develop very positively. **AJM**



BLUNDELL'S

HOCKEY

The boys' hockey term has been marked by commitment, development, and a number of impressive achievements across all age groups. At senior level, **Morgan's** captaincy of the 1st XI has been a defining feature, leading the side with consistency and determination while finishing his Blundell's career with an outstanding tally of 48 goals. **Luka, Kit & Morgan** were deservedly awarded full colours in recognition of their contribution to the programme. The 1st XI produced several standout performances, most notably their efforts in the cup semi-final, narrowly missing out on a place in the Lee Valley final in what was a highly competitive fixture.

Elsewhere the U15s demonstrated excellent resilience in their ISHC campaign, unfortunate to miss out on a National Quarter Final place after a closely contested shootout. The U13 A team have enjoyed an exceptional unbeaten season, further strengthened by valuable experience gained at the Regional Finals.

Individual success has also been evident, with **Spencer** and **Sanna** earning selection for England U16 squads, highlighting the strength of hockey across the school.



We are proud that **Sanna** and **Spencer** have been selected for the England U16 squads, and **Morgan** has been invited into the England U21 Elite Development Programme.

Three pupils representing England across different age groups is a remarkable achievement for the School.

BLUNDELL'S

NETBALL

This term has been an amazing one for Blundell's Netball, with over 130 fixtures played across 16 teams, reflecting both the strength of our programme and the enthusiasm of our pupils. From our senior squads - where we were once again able to field five competitive senior teams - to the youngest age groups, the commitment and progress shown across the board has been outstanding.

The 1st team enjoyed a hugely positive season, securing a number of impressive wins and consistently demonstrating resilience in several tightly contested matches. Our U15 age group had a particularly strong term, with the U15A team winning the Year 10 End of Season Tournament and delivering consistent, high quality performances across all fixtures. The U13A squad also enjoyed a standout season, finishing undefeated, showing remarkable cohesion and skill for such a young side.

Across the programme, pupils have shown determination, versatility, and a genuine love for the game. With many teams finishing strongly and so many players gaining valuable match experience, there is plenty to celebrate and even more to look forward to as we build on this term's success.





BLUNDELL'S RUGBY 7s

It has been a successful term for 7s, with over 100 pupils playing in at least one tournament.

The U18 boys made a strong start, winning the Plate at the Bristol Grammar 7s, followed by another Plate win at the Southwest 7s and a Bowl win at the Worcester 7s. The Southwest 7s also provided the first opportunity for the girls to play. With all three age groups entered, they gained valuable game time ahead of Rosslyn Park, while the U18 girls added further experience in a triangular with Millfield and Marlborough.

The U16 boys secured the Plate at the Southwest 7s with some impressive performances. The U15 boys won the Devon 7s, while the U14 boys continued to improve and showed good progress. The U13 boys performed well at the Port Regis 7s, narrowly losing to Millfield in the final after extra time.

All teams then travelled to Rosslyn Park, with the school entering the maximum seven teams. Over 80 players took part, including many girls new to rugby, making it a valuable experience for all.

There were strong performances across the age groups. The U14 girls recorded a win and a draw in competitive matches, while the U14 boys won their group before narrowly missing out in the qualifying round. The U16 girls progressed to day two after winning their group and competed well throughout. The U18 girls also impressed, winning two matches in a challenging group, while the U18 boys finished with a victory in their final game. The U13 boys rounded off the tournament with three wins and one loss, playing some exciting rugby.

Rosslyn Park provided an excellent end to the term. It was also wonderful to see so many families travelling to support the teams, something greatly appreciated by both players and staff.



CLAY SHOOTING CHALLENGE

Blundell's Clay Pigeon Shooting team travelled to the Royal Berkshire Shooting School to compete in the Purdey Inter-Schools Clay Shooting Challenge, hosted by Bradfield College, against a strong field including Eton, Marlborough, Millfield, Rugby and Sherborne.

The A team finished an impressive 7th overall and recorded the highest combined score of the day on the Flush stand, an excellent achievement under pressure.

Jasper (Year 11) was Blundell's top individual shooter with a score of 33 on a challenging course. It was also a first competition for **Tom** and **Martin** (Year 9) and **Nicolas** (Year 12), who all performed very well.

The B team finished 19th out of 30 teams, demonstrating the growing depth of shooting at Blundell's.

A final mention goes to **Dan**, **Tom** and **Toby** (Year 13), likely competing in their last school event, with Dan having represented the A team since Year 9.

A fantastic day of competition, rounded off with a visit to the Purdey gun room. Well done to all involved.



U13 GIRLS REACH COUNTY FINALS

The U13 Girls indoor cricket team, Captained by **Evie**, progressed to the county finals of the Lord Taverners Rachel Heyhoe-Flint Trophy. The team played well and won all their games against Plymouth College, Exeter school, Stover School, West Buckland and Maynard School.

NEW CLIMBING WALL

Our new climbing wall gives pupils an exciting way to build confidence, resilience and teamwork. In Core PE, they learn key safety skills such as tying in and belaying, before challenging themselves and growing in confidence as they reach new heights.





COMMUNITY

IN ACTION

This Spring has been another exceptionally busy and rewarding term for the Community Partnerships Programme. Blundell's welcomed nearly 900 visiting pupils from 12 local state schools, supported by around 400 Blundellians who volunteered their time and energy. In total, 27 community-focused events took place, highlighting a strong spirit of service.

The dedication of the Community Action Team, alongside Sport Leaders, Musicians, Actors and others, continues to demonstrate the breadth of volunteering at Blundell's, developing confidence, character and leadership.

This term's events included Primary Partnership Days in Chemistry, Classics, Maths and English, Primary Sports Mornings, a Lego Brick Challenge Day, and hosting Tiverton Rotary and local Headteachers. Pupils also contributed to the Spring Concert and performances of The Lion King. The Spring Garden Open Day launched Tiverton in Bloom's 60th Anniversary.

CHARITY

Pupils supported initiatives including Brew Monday, a Pop-Up Charity Shop, Fashion Show, Chapel Services, Care Home visits and Breakfast on the Go, with another Home Clothes Day planned. In Chapel, Mimi and Heidi spoke about thoughtful giving through Restory and Breakfast on the Go.

A collaborative tea towel project with Restory raised over £500, promoting dignity and participation. Further successes included over £700 from the Fashion Show and £3,000 from SH School dinners.



The Business pupils thoroughly enjoyed applying their learning through our Krispy Kreme Charity sale today, putting theory into practice through sales forecasting, revenue, costs and break-even analysis. Despite selling out early, A-Level Business pupils raised around £250 for Breakfast on the Go while gaining valuable real-world experience.



Our Charity Pop-Up Shop brought Houses together in a lively and competitive event, showcasing teamwork and enterprise. It was fantastic to see School House take part for the first time. Together, we raised an impressive £1,185 for CHAT, with Petergate topping the leaderboard with £287 in a closely fought competition. Thank you to everyone who supported, donated and took part.

FORTHCOMING

EVENTS

APRIL	24–25 April	Drawn to Imperfection Art Exhibition (Lara Wielenga), Big School
MAY	4th May	Senior School Open Day & Prep School Grandparents Day
	21–23 May	Devon County Show, Westpoint Thursday 21 May 14:00–16:00: Drinks Reception for parents, OBs and Governors
JUNE	4–6 June	Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge
	26 June	Blundell's Fest, Big Field
JULY	3 July, 14:30	Speech Day and Prize Giving, Big Field (Senior, Social)
	25 July	Mid Devon Show, Knightshayes



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