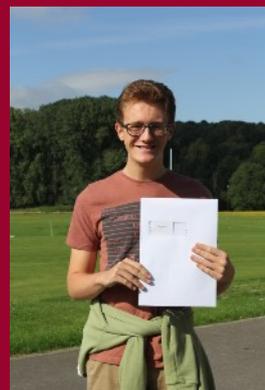


NEWSLETTER



CELEBRATING SUCCESS



MEET OUR STUDENT
LEADERS



'CONSIDER YOURSELF' A SUCCESS - SCHOOL PRODUCTION REVIEW

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Staff Training Day
Monday 2nd September

Year 7 & 12 Start
Tuesday 3rd September

All Students In
Wednesday 4th September

Open Evening
Thursday 19th September

Year 11 Parents' Information Evening
Thursday 26th September

Year 7 Meet The Tutor Evening
Tuesday 30th September

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR INSTANT UPDATES



@blandfordschool The Blandford School



SPORTS WATCH

TBS EQUESTRIANS TAKE PART IN NATIONAL DRESSAGE QUALIFIER

On Saturday 15th June sisters Chloe, Zoe and Lily Risborough took part in a National Dressage Qualifier held at Millfield School.

In the Preliminary Class Zoe came 4th, Chloe 5th and Lily 6th and as a team they came 1st! This qualifies them for the National Schools Championship held at Addington in October. Zoe also qualifies as an individual and Chloe and Lily go forward to the National Schools Plate at Keyso in November. In the Novice Class Chloe came 8th qualifying again for Keysoe.

This adds to the qualification that Chloe, Lily and Courtney Coombes Gained for Showjumping in the recent half term where as team they head to Keyso in the 80 cm Class.

Things got even better for the girls at the Dorset Games held the following Wednesday, with Blandford Team Yellow winning the Dorset School Games 80-85cm competition.

Great rides from Chloe and Shamie, Jess and Zeus, Lily and Betsy and Courtney and Timber.



A huge congratulations to Year 10 student George Knight who was recently presented with his Black Belt in Taekwondo by his trainer Kim Robinson of KR Martial Arts. Kim has taught George since the age of 6. Well done, George!



THE ARTS

OLIVER!

Congratulations to the cast and crew of Oliver!

All students involved with the production of Oliver have been awarded Trinity Grade 8 Musical Theatre In-Production with a Distinction. The examiner was in the audience on Thursday 18th July and awarded the production 91 out of a possible 100 marks. For GROUP DYNAMIC students were awarded 19/20 with the examiner commenting that there was a "highly animated and committed sense of ensemble energy and responsibility." INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES were awarded 18/20, the examiner praised the characterisation as being "notable for detail, nuance and texture." STAGING was awarded 18/20 and the examiner comments in his report that "the up-dating to modern urban life was full of witty detail and absolutely highlighted the contemporary relevance of the tale." DESIGN was awarded 18/20 and the students who created the graffiti backdrop were praised for successfully conjuring up a modern urban landscape. Finally students were also awarded 18/20 for TECHNICAL for what the examiner called a "technically tight performance."

Students on and off stage should be exceptionally proud of their marks and feedback! As staff we are very, very proud of the hard work and dedication they show us year after year. It is worth noting that this is their fourth distinction grading in a row, since we introduced the award in 2015, and I believe we have a small number of cast members who have now achieved Grade 5-8 all at this level.

The show was also reviewed by the Bournemouth Echo on Tuesday 16th July, once again receiving high praise. The full review can be read by following this link:

<https://www.bournemouthcho.co.uk/news/17777192.review-oliver-tivoli-theatre/>.

Well done to all involved.



The Art Department would like to pass on their thanks to the family of Betty Thompson from Hilton for their kind donation of their mother's art materials. It will be valued by our students in helping them to produce further exciting pieces in fabric and paintings.

The Art Department were delighted to host another highly successful evening for parents, students and ex students to celebrate the art work generated by students from across the school. Well done to everyone involved and, in particular, thanks to Travis Perkins for supporting the art department to buy lovely new display boards.

YEAR 8 & 10 STUDENTS ATTEND ABLE LINGUIST STUDY DAYS

Some of our most talented linguists from year 8 and year 10 visited Southampton University in June for their "Able Linguist Study Days"

They learnt about the benefits of studying a foreign language at university and the different countries they could study in during their year abroad. They also found about all the exciting career opportunities open to them if they decide to continue with their language studies.

To practise their current language they worked with students from other schools to create an advertising campaign in either French or Spanish then in the afternoon they had the opportunity to take part in taster sessions in a new language. Our students tried German, Italian, Portuguese and Russian and practised their new language skills on the bus journey home.

Here are some thoughts on the day from our year 10 students:

'I thoroughly enjoyed my time revisiting Southampton university as I did two years ago in Year 8. I was fully engaged in the sessions the staff were giving us and the help and support from students was brilliant. I understood the sheer importance of languages and how they help tremendously with certain careers post-education' (Sam Churchouse : year 10)

'For me the day at Southampton University was a great one, not only did we spend the morning doing our chosen GCSE subject, (For me it was Spanish) But in the afternoon we spent two hours learning Portuguese and Italian. As a whole the day was enjoyable and inspiring to say the least and has shown me what it would be like to study Modern Foreign Languages at University and the advantages of doing that.' (Tom Fuller: year 10)



Darcy 'Baggs' a Book Award!

Meet Darcy Bagg of Year 7 (pictured right). This year, Darcy has not only won the 'Year 7 Reader of the Year' award but the fact that he has read 125 books since joining us in September means that he is the most widely-read student in the school. We thought we would ask Darcy about his reading habits to gain an insight into how this young man has achieved such a phenomenal record.



Can you remember the first book you enjoyed reading?

The first real book I remember reading and really enjoying was Paddington bear by Michael Bond. I went on to collect all the books and still love them now.

How do you choose a new book to read?

I always stay open-minded when choosing a book. I look for known authors, or I scan along the spines/front covers, choose one that appeals then read the blurb and read a random page to see if it grabs me. I like history so sometimes an historical event will lead me to books. Like the witch trials got me reading lots of different fact and fiction books about witches.

What is the best book you've ever read?

The best book I have ever read is hard to answer. I think maybe 'The List World' by Arthur Conan Doyle is high on the list, so is 'The Aeneid'. 'The Invisible Man' by HG Wells and also any book by Abi Elphinstone is great

What is your favourite place to read a book?

My favourite places to read are the car, the bathroom and the garden on a sunny day!

What advice would you give to anyone who's fallen out of the habit of reading?

My advice would be don't force yourself to read a book that you are not getting on with. Give up and try a new one. Give yourself time each day. Don't start with anything too heavy going. Remember reading should be enjoyable!

Thank you to Darcy for those wise words. If you would like to view the list of books that Darcy has read this year, please follow this to our website [here](#).

If you'd like to be in with a chance of beating Darcy's record, make the most of your summer holidays and come back in September with a list of the books you have read. Don't forget that Blandford Library has an excellent stock of books for Young Adults or you can even access them as audio / digital books via the West Libraries website: www.librarieswest.org.uk

A LEVEL RESULTS - Cambridge student leads the way

Summary

A*- A - 32%

A*- B - 51%

A*- C - 83%

A*- E - 99.5%

The Blandford School is celebrating today with excellent sixth form results.

Blandford's top A level performer this year with an outstanding set of grades is Darcy Emmet, who is heading to Newnham College, Cambridge to read Natural Sciences after achieving A* A* A* in Chemistry, Mathematics and Further Mathematics. Staff are thrilled for Darcy, whose work ethic over the course of her time at TBS has been phenomenal. Other highfliers include Lauren Stephenson who achieved A*A A in Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry. Lauren is heading to the prestigious Royal Veterinary College in London to study Veterinary Science. Ben Smurthwaite achieved A*A B and will read Philosophy and Theology at Durham University, commencing in September 2020.

Top performers on vocational courses include Cameron Guest, Harriet Phipps and Chloe Parsons, who achieved double Distinction* in Business Studies, and Megan North was awarded Distinction* in Health and Social Care.

The overall pass rate this year was 99.5%, with 32% of students achieving the coveted top grades of A*- A, and 51% achieving A*- B.

Headteacher, Sally Wilson expressed her personal delight for students in the year 13 cohort:

"Our results this year are very good and I am particularly thrilled at the variety of destinations our students have chosen. A real strength of the school is the broad and balanced curriculum we have from the point of entry in Year 7 through to Year 13. In addition to this, sixth form students take part in a variety of enhanced curriculum activities which include university summer schools, work placements and work shadowing; without a doubt this opens numerous doors for students. This year we have one Year 13 student who is embarking on a Higher Apprenticeship with Lloyds Bank, another is commencing a Nursing Apprenticeship with the NHS. Students will be studying a range of subjects at University, including degrees in Fine Art, Illustration, Audio and Music Technology, Sports Sciences, Primary Education, Business Studies, Criminology, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Architecture, Musical Theatre and History.

On behalf of the staff at TBS and our Governing Board, I would like to congratulate all of our Year 13 students and wish them well for the future."

Sally Wilson, Headteacher



A full selection of images are available to view on our website.

Huge congratulations to Year 11 student Maisy Allen who has recently represented England in the Women U18's Rugby Sevens in the Home Nations Tournament. Maisy and the team were successful in winning the tournament, beating Scotland in the final. Maisy has now been selected to represent England U18's once again at the European Championships in September. A huge well done Maisy, we look forward to watching your rugby career flourish!



News from the Maths Department

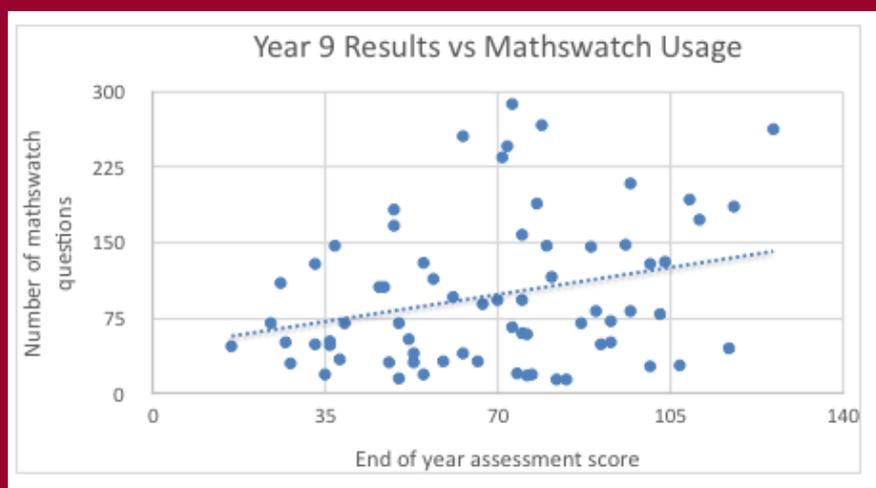
Our amazing Year 11 Pupils

By the time you read this our fantastic year 11 pupils will have completed their GCSE exams. They have maintained a brilliant work ethic during an intensive period and as a department we would like to congratulate all those who have worked incredibly hard.

Student Progress

All students had formal end of year assessments and are to be congratulated for their hard work and focus. The whole of year 9 had formal assessments sat in the hall which allowed students and staff to assess how well they are settling into the new maths GCSE curriculum. Students were given a revision list and have access to Mathswatch online to support them in being fully prepared. We were really impressed with how the year 9 conducted themselves.

Analysing the students' results we found a direct relationship between student's progress and the number of Mathswatch questions they did in preparation.



To maintain student's fluency with some basic key skills every student has been issued with a summer holiday homework task. These questions have been carefully selected to reinforce some key maths skills which your child will need to master in order to be successful in maths next year and into their GCSE Mathematics. In order to keep skills fresh we would advise students to do a worksheet per week. If stuck, look on Mathswatch. If the work is lost please contact Mrs Copley on fcopley@blandfordschool.org.uk.

THE BLANDFORD SCHOOL

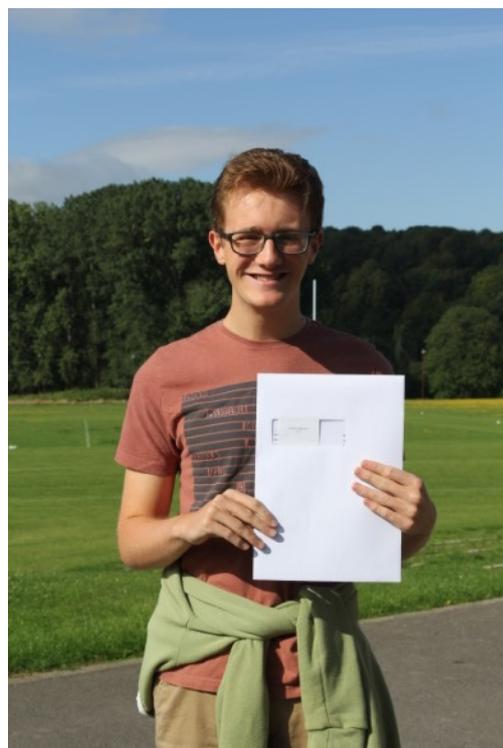
GCSE RESULTS - A WINNING FORMULA



The atmosphere as students collected results this morning was fabulous. Maths results broke school records for the second year running, with an outstanding 75% achieving a standard pass, and 55% a strong pass. In addition, 19% of students achieved a Grade 7 or above. English results were also very good with 76% of students achieving a standard pass, 56% a strong pass and 17% of students a Grade 7. The combined figure – those students who achieved at least a standard pass in both English and Maths was therefore 66%, with 45% achieving a strong pass. This beats last year's impressive results which were well above the national average (national averages for this year will be confirmed in due course). Science also performed exceptionally well

following their outstanding A Level results last week. At GCSE, 3 in every 4 students achieved 1 grade above the national average in Science.

The class of 2019 achieved in total an astonishing 65 Grade 9's which is the highest grade, awarded to only the top 4.5% of students in the country (the 2018 GCSE cohort achieved 56 Grade 9's). In addition the cohort were awarded 76 Grade 8's, 134 Grade 7's and 184 Grade 6's. High fliers this year include the incredibly talented Sidney Jenkinson with his 9 Grade 9's and 1 Grade 8. Rose Amey achieved 7 Grade 9's, 2 Grade 8's and 1 Grade 7. George Hutchings also did brilliantly, with 6 Grade 9's and 4 Grade 8's. Lottie Sims gained 5 Grade 9's, 2 Grade 8's and 3 Grade 7's. Matthew Hancock performed very well with 5 Grade 9's, 1 Grade 8 and 3 Grade 7's. Jacob Kingman achieved 5 Grade 9's and 1 Grade 7. Other students who performed very well were Aislinn Lewis-Smith with 4 Grade 9's, 5 Grade 8's and 1 Grade 7 and Nathan Scott who received 4 Grade 9's and 2 Grade 7's. Lucy Denton-Smith was delighted with her 3 Grade 9's, 2 Grade 8's and 4 Grade 7's. Maisy Allen, who last week represented England Under 18's Rugby Sevens in the Home Nations Tournament (beating Scotland in the final), also achieved excellent results with 3 Grade 9's, 5 Grade 8's and 2 Grade 7's. The school is exceptionally proud of Maisy, who is now heading to Hartpury College to further her Rugby career and will be representing England again at the European Championships in September. Maisy is one of several talented students who, with support from staff, manage to balance their studies with demanding training programmes in sports and the arts.



Sally Wilson, Headteacher of The Blandford School said, 'We have had a really exciting day today with students of all abilities doing so very well. In particular, I have been impressed by the work ethic of Year 11 with the majority of them taking up every single opportunity staff offered them which included holiday, after school revision sessions and breakfast briefings. I really do believe we have found a winning formula. I would like to thank parents and carers for their ongoing support, many of them were with us today and it was great to share this special morning with them. Staff and our Governing Board are thrilled with these results which reflect the high aspirations of us all and are consistent with last year's results which smashed school records.'

Sally Wilson, Headteacher



T H E D I A N A A W A R D[®]

The Diana Award definition of bullying:

Repeated negative behaviour that is intended to make others feel upset,

Banter is... when the other person is IN on the joke

In June 2019, ten representatives of our growing Anti-Bullying Team, from across year groups, attended The Diana Anti-Bullying Award training day in Weymouth. There we learned that in studies carried out in the UK, 82.6% of young people stated that they had experienced verbal bullying. Cyber-bullying had also increased, according to the Guardian, by 88% since 2011. LGBT youngsters are unfortunately the most at risk in national studies.

Students and staff work very hard indeed to support their peers here at TBS — the recent Diversity Week activities, including films, competitions and assemblies, being a really great example — and the Anti-Bullying Team came back with new ideas to continue their work.

We agreed to promote the Diana Award definition of bullying in the next academic year. So many incidents reported as bullying are in fact ‘fall-outs’ with friends instead. It is also important that everyone understands what true bullying is, and what is ‘banter.’

Modelling good practice on-line and keeping an eye on social media interactions between your child and their peers can really help. Any cyber-bullying that is reported to us, now that we have a no mobile phone policy, is largely happening outside the school day, so we will need your help.

Keep an eye on our newsletter and website for further information about the ways in which the whole team will continue to work for the cause in the future.

ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS — DIANA AWARD TRAINING.



What have we been doing this week?

This week we've...

- Had a rainbow Cake Sale
- Shown the film 'Love Simon'
- Had/Having special inclusive lessons
- Have decorated boxes around the school for students and staff to write messages of support for the LGBT+ students
- We are selling rainbow Paracord Bracelets on non-uniform day 19th July.
(£2.50 each)



Year 9 student wins photography prize

Congratulations to Year 9 student Charlie Bagg for winning the Best School Print award at Blandford Forum Camera Club's annual exhibition. Charlie's print of a Hummingbird Hawk Moth received an overwhelming majority of the votes cast by visitors to the exhibition which took place on 25 and 26 May in the Blandford Corn Exchange. Charlie's prize was a 32 Gigabyte memory stick. Also featured were prints by other members of the school's photography club which meets after school every Wednesday afternoon. The school is pleased to have this link with the local camera club and we hope to enter their next exhibition in 2020. The photos below show (left) Charlie receiving his award from BFCC chairman Geoff Killer, watched by Tabatha Fletcher-Jones, Belle Farnhill, Ronnie Jerrard and Daisy Ryan-East and (right) his winning photograph.



Open Evening

Thursday 19th September 2019

THE BLANDFORD SCHOOL



All potential students and parents are welcome.

Year 5 Parents - Presentation by the Headteacher in the Hall at 6pm followed by a tour at 6.20pm

Year 6 Parents - Presentation by the Headteacher in The Hall at 6.30pm followed by a tour at 6.50pm

Please join us for a drinks reception before the presentation. The evening will conclude at 8.30pm

RESPECT ● EFFORT ● ATTITUDE ● PERSEVERANCE

01258 451121 | office@blandfordschool.org.uk | www.blandfordschool.org.uk

Do you need additional school uniform?

We have some very good quality pre-owned school uniform, including PE kits, which are free to anyone who would like to contact us. Please contact the Guidance and Welfare team who will be happy to check availability of the size you require.

We would also be very happy to receive washed, good quality pre-owned uniform that you may no longer need so that we can continue to support students and parents/carers in this way.

Are you concerned about something we have done?

We make every effort to ensure that parents/carers and students understand any decisions we make, but sometimes we understand that you may still have concerns. If this is the case, in the first instance please raise your concern either directly with the member of staff concerned, the head of the relevant department, or Sally Wilson. If, after trying to resolve your complaint in this way, you are still unhappy, the school has a formal Complaints Policy, which can be found here:

GENERAL COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Liz Bishopp
Complaints Co-ordinator & Business Manager

PEANUTS

A reminder that due to the number of students in school who suffer from severe nut allergies, we ask that you do not include these items in snacks or packed lunches which are brought into school or on school trips. Thank you for your support.

POLICIES

A reminder that many of our school policies including our Safeguarding Policy and Child Protection Procedures are available on the Parents' Pages of the school website or as hard copies from Reception.

We can arrange for translation of any document if necessary.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead and Lead for Prevent is Penny White. Deputy DSL's are Duncan Smith and Victoria Moore.

SAFE DRIVING ON SCHOOL SITE

Please could we remind all visitors to The Blandford School of the importance of safe driving whilst on the school site. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

School Diversity Week 2019

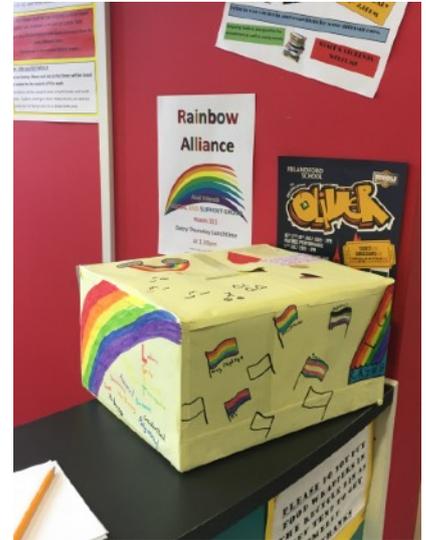
This July, Blandford School joined nearly one million pupils and school staff across the country in celebrating School Diversity Week 2019, the national celebration of lesbian, gay bisexual and trans (LGBT+) equality in education, organised by the charity Just Like Us (justlikeus.org).

Unfortunately, growing up remains unacceptably tough for LGBT+ young people: 40% contemplate suicide, 52% have self-harmed and 86% still hear homophobic remarks. That's why our pupils and school staff are getting creative to make school a place where every young person can be themselves and thrive.

As part of the week, pupils and school staff fundraised to support the charity Just Like Us and our own LGBT+ support group, The Rainbow Alliance. To raise money and awareness, The Rainbow Alliance held a cake sale, sold handmade rainbow bracelets, and encouraged students to leave positive comments of support in boxes around the school, with the film 'Love, Simon' also available to watch at lunchtimes.

Alongside this fantastic work from the students, across the week staff included themes surrounding diversity into their lessons and Ms Cudlipp presented an assembly to each year group to highlight the importance of celebrating diversity in our community. Carol Thomas from Dorset Police also gave a presentation surrounding 'Hate Crime' and the consequences.

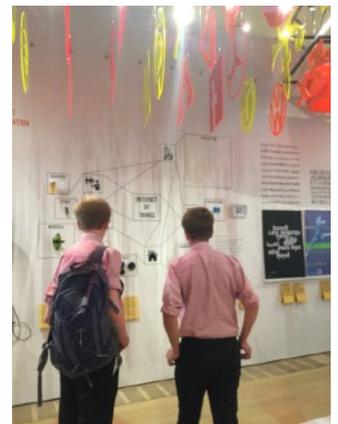
Thank you to all the staff and students who helped throughout the week and in particular, thank you to Ms Cudlipp for organising the events for students and staff.



D&T VISIT THE DESIGN MUSEUM

On the 9th July, Year 10 and 12 Design and Technology students went to the Design Museum in Kensington for an action packed day. Students explored the 'Designer maker user' exhibition including interactive activities and displays. The exhibition covers a broad range of design disciplines, from architecture and engineering, to the digital world, fashion and graphics. Before lunch students were invited to look around the exclusive Adjaye exhibition. Students experienced the storytelling power of architecture through an exploration of seven monumental projects from celebrated architect Sir David Adjaye OBE.

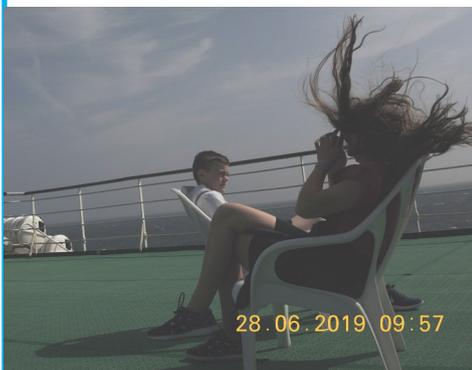
In the afternoon students took part in an innovation workshop in 3D printing.



2019 Trip to France - Year 8

5:15 in the morning and we are all on the coach and off on our adventure. It is not long before there is a desperate "Sir, Sir" from midway down the coach. A certain young man has managed to pick up his fathers' wallet. Tempting though it might be to have a bit of a party we waited for the wallet to be collected.

After a short stop we were on our way again to Poole Ferry Terminal to catch the ferry, The Barfleur, to Cherbourg.



The crossing started quite calm, obviously lulling us into a false sense of security. Once we got out into the open seas it became quite choppy which had an adverse effect on a number of students.

To say it was windy would be an understatement with many a chair waltzing its way across deck all by itself.



Finally we arrived in Cherbourg and after a pleasant drive through France we arrived at Le Château du Tertre far south in Normandy. The wonderful PGL staff were waiting for us when we arrived. Our guide this year was Margo.

Time to tuck into some food before a tour of the grounds. The woods were a big hit... There was just time for a very active quiz around the site, which involved a lot of running around searching for clues, before bed.



Saturday dawned bright and hot with a trip to the historic town of Fougères, where we were able to wander around the market before a rather informative and delightful quiz which took us on the town trail around Fougères.

As expected the French market was a delight. The variety of goods on offer and range of foods available is always astounding.



Many students tried their hand at interacting with the locals. In particular the watch seller did a roaring trade.



Though, probably a good thing no one was interested in the larger clocks on offer. That would have been an interesting conversation with our coach driver, Dave!



2019 Trip to France - Year 8

After a welcome paddle in the park and a quick walk through scenic Fougères we had some lunch before travelling to the farm.



The farm was a big hit with its chickens, rabbits, cows & goat. We finished in the barn and were treated to farm produced chocolate milk, home made cake and a sing song.



It was **HOT**...



But that was ok... Everyone cooled down in the cow shower ...



Then it was back to PGL for a mega water fight and supper followed by mini Olympics, which involved more water.

Much fun and amusement!



2019 Trip to France - Year 8

Sunday dawned bright and hot. Today's trips were to the Boulangerie in Ambrières Les Vallées and the trip to Mont St-Michel.

The Boulangerie was fun and really interesting with a visit behind the scenes to learn about different aspects of making bread.



And, of course, we were able to try freshly baked Croissant and Pain Au Chocolat hot from the oven. Heaven!!!

Then it was to the Pâtisserie where many students were able to try out their French, ordering the tasty treats.



Whilst we waited for the other half of the group we went for a pleasant walk around the small, picturesque town of Ambrières. With plenty of photo opportunities.



It was then time for us to hit the road again, off to Mont St-Michel. A slight shower or two en route then the sun popped out again for another hot afternoon.



The walk across was not without incident, with first aid having to be applied by our two Florence Nightingales..

2019 Trip to France - Year 8

A pleasant walk up to the Abbey gave us a chance to take in the awesome scenery.



Then some free time for a bit of shopping and relaxation before meeting at the exit.



Disco time in the evening before it was time to bid a fond farewell and make our way home.

However that was not the end of our adventure. We made two stops on Monday. The first at a French Hyper Market. The second was suggested by our driver, Dave, a stop at Sainte-Mère-Église. This was of special historic significance, being one of the first towns liberated during the 2nd World War and for having an American parachutist land on the church roof and pretend to be dead for several hours.



We made good time on the journey back and arrived early back at Blandford.

And not forgetting the snails -



A fantastic 4 days in France with a thoroughly enjoyable group of students (and teachers - of course). Roll on next year!

MEET OUR STUDENT FORUM LEADERS

Emma Wright - Deputy Head Girl

Why did you want to lead the Student Forum?

I initially wanted to be a part of the student forum because I was encouraged by the impact of last year's student forum and the positive changes they made. Because it was so significant, I was confident that I would be able to contribute ideas both personally and on behalf of other students that I am representing.

What subjects are you studying now?

I am currently studying English, Drama and Biology at A-level, With an EPQ in Animal Behaviour and The Duke Of Edinburgh Award

What are you looking forward to in your new role?

I am looking forward to having the opportunity to discuss my ideas about the school, in addition to raising awareness of the work of the student forum, I am also excited to have the opportunity to encourage younger students to participate in events and help with their academic progress, hopefully by making small changes in response to their feedback.

How did you find the interview process?

I enjoyed the interview process, I felt as if we were tested on many different aspects that are important for leading student forum, for example, seeing how we would deal with certain situations that might occur as part of our responsibility, and I felt this was a good opportunity to show problem solving ability, closely linked to our roles. I also felt that the application process beforehand gave us a wide scope in terms of discussing what we felt was important, and we were able to show our individual skills, due to the helpfully open-ended questions.

What would you like to do when you leave TBS Sixth Form?

When I leave sixth form, I hope to go to university and study Law, perhaps a joint honours degree with one of; International or Public Relations, Politics, English, Criminology or Social Anthropology.

What ideas do you have to improve the Sixth Form and contribute to the overall school?

I would like to help with revision support for students, I think it is really important that students are very clear about how to prepare for an exam or what a homework is asking, and self-confidence is really important to achieve well later in their academic life. I would ideally like to create a way to help students with this, and would like to work with teachers and students in order to encourage student engagement with both class and home studies. And helping students in years 9 - 11 to prepare for GCSE's

What has been your most memorable experience at TBS so far?

One of the most memorable experiences with The Blandford School, was the Cultural Trip to China, I really enjoyed the entire experience, and we were really lucky to stay in some of the most amazing locations in Shanghai and Beijing, the highlights for me were the Great Wall Of China and the Shanghai River Cruise. We were extremely lucky to be offered such an incredible trip and I am very grateful to all the staff responsible for making it possible.

Apart from your studies, what do you like to do in your free time?

Aside from my school studies, In my free time I am currently doing a course in Spanish, I enjoyed studying it at GSCE and while I wasn't able to continue for A-level, It is something that I wanted to develop as a skill that is valuable for employability and travel. In addition to this I have been and currently am involved with Theatre Productions, both inside and out of school.

I also attend a Dance Academy that practice inside school and performed in a show last February. Also, I currently work as a lifeguard at Blandford Leisure Centre, and so I frequently revise the Qualifications in First Aid and Accident Intervention. I take singing lessons each week and am working towards a grade exam at the end of July. In my free time I also like to go to the gym, as it provides a break from studies but also helps improve my abilities as a lifeguard and in Dance.



MEET OUR STUDENT FORUM LEADERS

Connor Joyce - Deputy Head Boy

Why did you want to lead the Student Forum?

For the past couple of years, I have been my tutor's representative to Student Forum and I wanted to carry on making a positive impact and improve the already amazing school. In my time of being here the school has given me so many different opportunities and I wanted to give back to the school and I felt that the best way to do this was to be part of leading the Student Forum. By doing this I would be able to help provide these opportunities and more to upcoming years.

What subjects are you studying now?

I'm currently studying A-level Chemistry, Biology and History.

What are you looking forward to in your new role?

One thing that I am looking forward to in my new role as Deputy Head Boy is becoming more involved within the school and within the community as well. I believe that leading the Student Forum shouldn't only be restricted to the boundaries of the school but should also involve the local community.

How did you find the interview process?

The interview process was actually quite fun. It consisted of two stages. In the first stage you had to write an application and in this you had to lay out your ideas and plans for the future of the school. This allowed me to really think about what I wanted to achieve in my final year at The Blandford School. In the second stage you had to write and give a speech to a board of interviewers. This stage really challenged me as writing speeches is something that I had never really done, let alone give them. But after the initial nerves had past I was able to deliver the speech and this helped build on my confidence, this is something that I want to carrying on doing in my time in office.

What would you like to do when you leave TBS Sixth Form?

I am undecided whether to take a gap year after Sixth Form. I am certain that I want to go to university to study medicine or biomedical sciences.

What ideas do you have to improve the Sixth Form and contribute to the overall school?

One of the main goals I wish to complete in my time in office is to help the school do their bit to help fight climate change. The school currently has many initiatives on fighting climate change, for example the solar panels on the side of the block 5, and I want to introduce more initiatives like this to help the school become eco-friendlier.

What has been your most memorable experience at TBS so far?

Over the past 6 years of being at the Blandford school I have created so many memories that have shaped me as a person and will remain with me for the rest of my life. If I had to choose the most memorable experience, it would have to be the trip to China that the school organised at the beginning of year 12. Although I has never thought about going to China before I was so glad that I went. It was so amazing: the food, the culture and the sights, all totally different from back home. I would defiantly recommend going!!

Apart from your studies, what do you like to do in your free time?

In my free time I quite like to play bowls. Although may people think that this is an old person sport there are loads of younger people playing it to. I find it helps take me away from all the work and stress that sixth form life can throw at you. I would encourage anyone to try it out!!



MEET OUR STUDENT FORUM LEADERS

Rosie Platts - Head Girl

Why did you want to lead the Student Forum?

I wanted to try something new and push myself out of my comfort zone. I would love a career in Economics or Politics when I have finished university and thought this would be a great way to start gaining experience in leadership and helping people achieve their goals.

What subjects are you studying now?

Economics, English Language and Literature, Psychology and Core Maths.

What are you looking forward to in your new role?

I'm looking forward to working with some of the younger years within the Forum and helping to bridge the divide between the lower school and the sixth form by working together. I'm also looking forward to helping make a difference in the school and I hope I use my time as head girl to make the school a better place.

How did you find the interview process?

I found it quite enjoyable - of course, the interviews were nerve-wracking and pushed me out of comfort zone, but overall the experience taught me that I should have more confidence in my abilities and what I can achieve.

What would you like to do when you leave TBS Sixth Form?

When I leave Sixth Form, I would love to do a degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, and then do a law conversion course in order to become a barrister in court.

What ideas do you have to improve the Sixth Form and contribute to the overall school?

My main focus this year will be trying to promote a kinder, more respectful attitude towards others' differences and working to make the school community a more accepting place. I feel very strongly about the importance of being kind to everyone - you never know what someone is going through outside of school.

What has been your most memorable experience at TBS so far?

One of my favourite experiences so far has to be taking Drama for GCSE and taking part in the shows the school puts on at the Tivoli theatre. Although I haven't taken it further, I met some of my best friends in that time and I really encourage everyone to take as many opportunities to try new things as possible.

Apart from your studies, what do you like to do in your free time?

When I have time, one of my favourite things to do is to travel - as I moved here from Portsmouth sometimes, I miss the city life - especially the shops. I also really enjoy both running and swimming - I find they are good for focussing your mind and getting you motivated.



MEET OUR STUDENT FORUM LEADERS

Mansoon Tamang - Head Boy

Why did you want to lead the Student Forum?

As soon as I heard about the role, I was enticed and felt it was very well suited to me. Bringing out positive changes to the school has been a long goal of mine so having that platform to lead the student forum was something I knew I had to be a part of. I've never actually been a part of the school's parliament/forum system, so being given this opportunity now couldn't have come at a better time for me.

What subjects are you studying now?

Biology, Chemistry & Maths.

What are you looking forward to in your new role?

I think I am looking forward to just about everything that comes along with the role. Being able to have a positive impact on the school and also having the chance to be able listen to new, fresh ideas from the younger pupils is exciting and something I can't wait get started on. In the midst of it all, also knowing I have a great team around me makes me feel very fortunate to take on this role as Head Boy as I know my team and I can have a great effect on the school.

How did you find the interview process?

Quite tough. Although initial application process was quite relaxed and allowed us to really think about why we wanted to take on the role, the actual interview was quite challenging (largely due to Mr William's not asking a single easy question!) However, I feel that was for the better as it really tested us to see if we were appropriate the role or not. Throughout the process I really had to think outside the box and appropriately answer difficult questions. It's definitely something I won't forget for a long long time.

What would you like to do when you leave TBS Sixth Form?

After completing my a-levels, I'd really like to go to university-- maybe do a course that would allow me to work in the medical field.

What ideas do you have to improve the Sixth Form and contribute to the overall school?

Following the establishment of the student forum last year, I want to push on further this year to implement more ideas from students in the school, making it the perfect environment for everyone. I also hope to show everyone the wonderful ideas students in the school have and also the projects the student forum undertakes, that perhaps doesn't get the recognition it deserves. I hope during my time in post, I can improve the sixth form and the whole school at the same time by creating a cohesive atmosphere, a sense of togetherness, so there are no bridges between the lower school and the sixth form.

What has been your most memorable experience at TBS so far?

I think it would be very tough to pick out just one memorable experience at TBS, as I've had so many. However, I'd have to say being a part of the school play, captaining the school's rugby team and the weekend trip to Carey Camp for the sports leadership course has to be near the top of the list.

Apart from your studies, what do you like to do in your free time?

I don't really have specific preference and so I like to do just about everything if I'm being honest. However, I've recently got into kickboxing, a sport that I'm really enjoying as I feel it helps me with not only my fitness, but also my stress and headspace.



Year 11 Prom

Please find below a selection of pictures from the Year 11 Prom held at Athelhampton House on Wednesday 3rd July.

