

NEWSLETTER

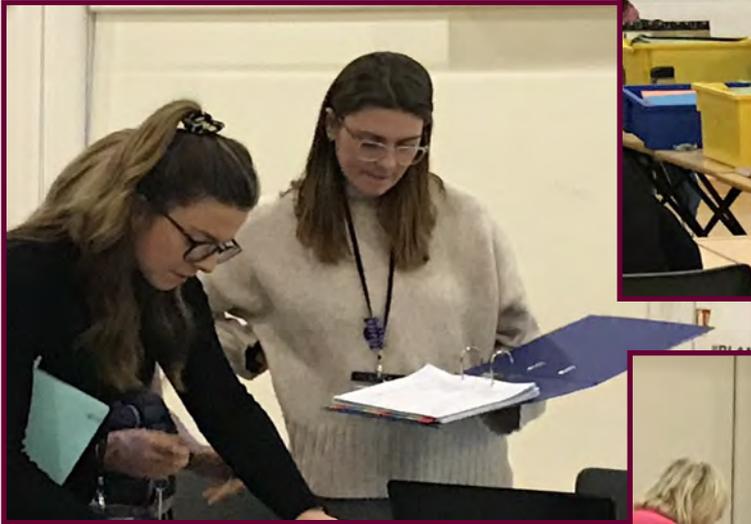


**Ken Reynolds receiving his MBE from the
Duke of Cambridge on 19th November
2019**



Staff working together to support student progress.

Staff across the school joined together in late November to review student books and folders. During the after-school session, which governors attended, they looked at the quality of work and consistency of marking and feedback. Staff regularly share good practice and this session was part of a comprehensive programme which operates throughout the academic year.



Dates for your Diary

Thursday 16th January - Year 10 Parents' Evening

Thursday 30th January - Year 9 Parents' Evening



Election 2019 Husting

The Blandford School Sixth Form welcomed candidates from the four parties standing in the North Dorset constituency for an Election 2019 Husting. Simon Hoare (Conservatives), Pat Osborne (Labour), David Chadwick (Liberal Democrats) and Ken Huggins (Green Party) answered questions submitted by students on a range of issues:

What policies do you have, both immediately and in the long term, to tackle climate change?

What are your parties' policies to address the amount of plastic-choking fragile environments?

Do you think that another referendum on Brexit would be democratic?

What are your parties' intentions regarding tuition fees and student loans (and the funding needed)?

What would your government do to improve transport links in Dorset?

All students in Years 12 and 13, some of whom were eligible to vote on December 12th, took part in the husting, listening to all responses and offering opinions of their own. The event, chaired by Assistant Head of Sixth Form Jason Langford, was designed to engage young people in the democratic process and provide inspiration for a Mock Election that took place on 12th December. The election was led by Sixth Form students, some of whom stood as candidates, whilst others will played a role in campaign teams and in organising voting on "polling day".

The Final results was;

**1st Place – Sidney J, Liberal Democrats
(31%)**

**2nd Place – Joseph S, Conservatives
(25%)**

3rd Place – Nathan S, Labour (22%)

4th Place – Louie D, Green (20%)

**The "turnout" was approximately 60%,
similar to the General Election.**



MFL Department Bake Off

Lots of students took part in the MFL House Bake Off event. There were more entries than any other year and some wonderful creations that tasted fabulous.

The results were as follows:

Montfort 80

Beaumont 90

Lacy 150

Lancaster 330 !! (including 3 winners!!)



Foodbank Donations



A massive thank you to all the students

and staff who donated food. It was delivered by some of our Sixth Form Students to the Blandford Foodbak; they were extremely grateful .

The Samaritan's Operation Christmas Child

Year 8 students have put together and donated shoe boxes to The Samaritan's Operation Christmas Child this year. These shoeboxes contain presents in the form of toys and necessities for boys and girls around the world and will be distributed to the neediest. Well done Y8!



The national slogan for this year's anti-bullying week was, 'Change starts with us.' We were exceedingly proud of our own growing anti-bullying team who had both the insight and the courage to ask to Independently write (and very confidently present) their own assembly around this message, to mark the event in 2019. It is true that every single one of us, students, staff and families, can continue to strive to make a

difference in this area.

Most importantly, students from all year groups (7-11) all worked collaboratively and were all represented in the year assemblies during the week. Their message was both important and powerful. Not only did they represent the whole student body but they also made specific reference to our agreed desire to include all groups, for example the LGBTQ+.

The team looked more closely at the definition of bullying which is not just 'falling out with friends' but involves a persistent intent to humiliate. They also explained 'banter' and where this is just a part of life where everyone is in on the joke and where it can descend into bullying. They also explained the different types of bullying and the significant national statistics.

Whilst we always mark the national anti-bullying week, we are clear that the message needs to be heard and enforced the whole year long. We are so grateful to our colleagues from the local Victim Support Team and also Treads of Blandford who provide detailed and comprehensive after school training sessions and ongoing training. We have also participated in the national Diana Anti-Bullying Award Scheme.

Library Fundraising

We have had two successful fundraising events for our school library recently. The Book Fair, organised by Mrs Norris and her team of sixth-formers, sold £387 of books. This means we have been allowed to purchase more than £190 of books from the same company for our library. Most importantly, there was a real buzz in the library as students pored over the books on offer. Thank you for supporting this event.

On Friday, 6th December, Rebekah's Kitchen hosted a 'Cocktails and Canapes' evening to raise funds. This very popular event raised £451.50 for our library fund! Sincere thanks to Laura and Dan for their generosity in donating the profits from the evening's festivities.

Student Forum Winter Update

2019-2020

Wow! We really are doing a lot this year. Meetings are exceptionally focused and we are delighted how much you are contributing positively to the community, engaging in debate and sharing the views of others in order to help decision making.

We are meeting weekly with Mrs Wilson and she is supporting us to ensure your voice is heard.

So far we have discussed the following:

You said.....	We did
More water refilling stations are required	We spoke to Mr Smith, Site Manager and three more are to be installed by Christmas 2019.
More opportunities to recycle are required by students	We researched recycling schemes and introduced a 'crisp packet initiative'. Bins specifically for crisp packets are now in The Hub, the Year 11 Social Area, The Well and the Sixth Form Study Area.
We could support a greater number of charities and be more proactive generally (as well as continue with charity non uniform days)	We researched and decided to support the Blandford Foodbank at Christmas with Christmas gifts.
We should increase positivity amongst the student body	New mirrors have been installed in the Block 5 Art corridor. "You are enough" is the message on these. The plan is to increase the number of these. Any more ideas are welcome.
We should find more varied ways to fund-raise and make it fun for those involved.	We came up with the idea of holding a charity student netball match to raise money for the British Heart Foundation.
We should hold more social events at school to build networks with the local schools such as Bryanston, and between year groups.	We decided to hold an annual sixth form event - 'The Sixth Form Spring Ball' for both year 12 and year 13's to encourage them to socialise more and help stress levels before exam season starts.

Mansoon and Rosie, Head Boy and Head Girl

Connor and Emma, Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl

The Student Forum 2019



WHY STUDENTS ARE PROUD OF TBS

- We are all a team, we can have our own voices, we are free to be us and we can get help easily.
- The teachers are good.
- It's reputation is good.
- It's fun.
- There are lots of opportunities.
- It is a lovely school, in a lovely environment.
- You get so much more freedom than primary.
- Teachers support students a lot.
- It has lots of different facilities (eg) design, sport.
- We are allowed a voice and we are listened to.
- They educate you well.
- The facilities are good (lots of land to do PE on).
- It is a diverse community.
- It is friendly.
- There is a good 'stand' against bullying.
- It has good GCSE and A Level results.
- There is action about climate change.
- It is safe, education is good.
- We have smart teachers and a friendly environment.
- The teachers 'know their stuff'.
- We have a Student Forum which allows us to put ideas forward and have them heard.
- It takes care of it's students.
- We have lots of opportunities, whatever our background and they offer lots of support for our futures.
- They encourage you to get involved in lots of clubs.
- We are encouraged to succeed.
- We can learn new subjects.
- We have an outstanding Creative Arts Department and amazing productions, A*!



SPORTS WATCH



Netball Roundup

This term has seen excellent numbers both at KS3 Netball Academy (Wednesday's 3.30-4.45pm) and Senior Netball training (Thursdays). We regularly get 50+ girls at Academy and 20+ at senior training which has contributed to

some excellent results in fixtures we've had so far this term with Shaftesbury, Gillingham and Sturminster. The turnout from Y7 in particular is great and we've worked really hard to ensure that as many girls get an opportunity to participate in matches as possible, sometimes taking two teams to play half a game each. All the girls have been great about swapping around and playing in different positions which is super as it will lead to them being extremely versatile players.

In particular we congratulate the U14 Squad who finished 2nd at the North Dorset Tournament (thanks to Deana Ritchie for umpiring for us) and went on to represent TBS at the County Tournament held at Canford.

Squad members are:

Charlie S, Karah B, Aoife O, Amelie T, Kelsey D, Grace S, Olivia V, Scarlett G, plus Jasmine C and Melisa K playing up a year.



We also hosted the U19 North Dorset Tournament where 8 schools played off to go through to the next round. Special mention to Tilly Crook, one of our Level 2 Sports Leaders, who took charge very professionally and made sure things ran smoothly. With having only 2 part-time teachers coordinating netball for the whole school we do rely on the help of our older students to coach and umpire matches for us and we are always very grateful for their help. Special thanks to Lily McCarthy, Lucy Denton-Smith and Rose Amey amongst others for their coaching at Netball Academy and Umpiring as necessary as well as Maisy Lang who is working towards her Umpiring Award and who has been our 'go-to girl' for tournaments.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to taking our U19 squad to David English for the Challenge Cup as well as a group of Y9 and 10 young leaders who will help run the tournament.

After Christmas is when we have fixtures with a lot of the local private schools and we are proud to be of a standard where they are asking us for fixtures. A list of matches will hopefully come out before Christmas once a few things are finalised but as always, please be understanding that details can change last minute.

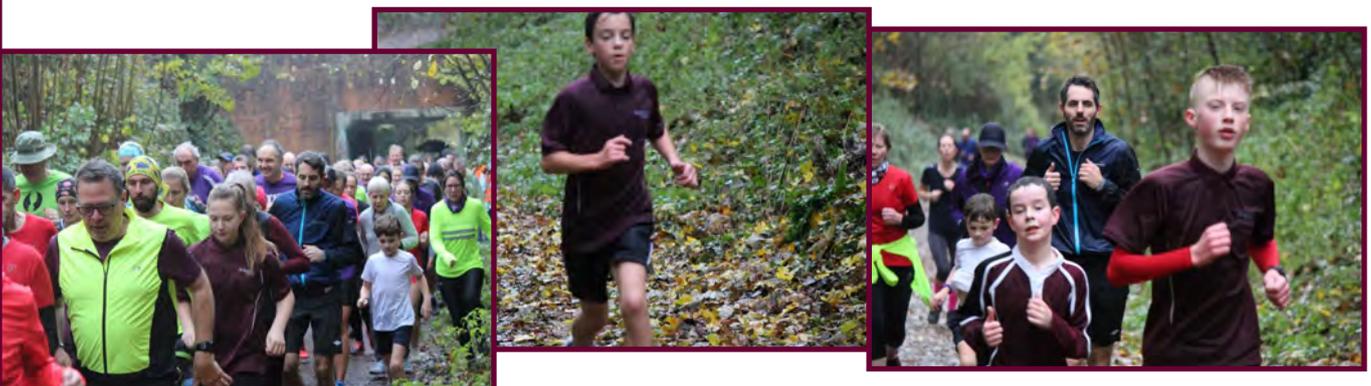
And finally.....we are excited to be looking forward to taking squads from Y8 and 9 to PGL Liddington on the 20th March.

Mrs Bailey and Mrs Smith

Parkrun



On Saturday 23rd November we did another 'TBS does parkrun'. The aim of these events is to highlight local opportunities for our students and staff to be active with their families. We encourage all to participate, regardless of ability as we understand the importance of keeping our bodies and minds fit. Well done to the staff and students who took part despite the miserable weather, we look forward to doing another one of these in the summer term. We'd love to support any students who have never taken part but who would be interested in doing so, if you'd like more information please see Mrs Smith in the PE department. There are also various opportunities to volunteer which is a very rewarding experience – without the volunteers, these events simply do not happen.



Recent Karate Success for Year 7 Student.

Our congratulations go to Year 7 student John Davenport for his recent Gold Medal win at the TYGA World Martial Arts Games.

John started karate training three years ago at Stour Karate which is a local Martial Arts school teaching tradition Wado-Ryu style karate. Just over a year ago he entered his first competition and won a gold medal in kumite (sparring) and as a result he qualified for a place in the team GB squad. Since then he has had a whirlwind year of training and competitions in preparation for the World Martial Arts



Games which were held in Egham at the end of October. John came a respectable 4th place.



Black Belt Success

TBS Year 8 student Jack Roper completed lack belt grading for Kick Boxing in London at the beginning of December, and has become the youngest male black belt in the country!!

Another Amazing Year For Blandford

Young Bowlers!

There is a strong tradition of students from Blandford taking part in the bowls events that take place locally and they also have a lot of success at winning these events. This year is no exception. Catherine Solway (Year 10) won the Dorset Ladies under 16's competition and was a runner up in the Dorset Ladies under 25's competition. Calum Rankine McIntosh (Year 10) won the Men's under

16's competition. The picture is of Catherine receiving her trophy in Weymouth.

