

# NEWSLETTER



## Dance Evening



## Kingfisher Ward Joy



## Rotary Club Dinner



## PRESENTATION EVENING 2018

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Friday 9th February

Non-Uniform Day  
supporting BEATS  
Charity

#### Mon 12th - Fri 16th February

Half-Term Holiday

#### Monday 19th February

First day back

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR INSTANT UPDATES



@blandfordschool



The Blandford School



# PRESENTATION EVENING 2018

On Thursday 4th January 2018 The Blandford School hosted its annual Presentation Evening – a celebration of students' hard work and dedication throughout the 2016-2017 school year. Awards were given out to students celebrating their academic achievement, their dedication to the community and for their accolades in sport, among many other awards celebrating achievement.

The near 300 guests were greeted upon arrival by a buffet of food provided by The Blandford School food teachers Miss Kimberley Channon and Miss Charlotte Pickett, where students past and present were given the chance to mingle and catch up with their teachers. Guests were entertained by pianists Joseph Empson, George Dutton and Charlotte Legg before the awards presentation began at 7.15pm.

Every year at Presentation Evening the awards are always presented alongside a guest speaker and a selection of our talented performers. This year The Blandford School was delighted to

welcome Mr Andrew Bowerman,

Chaplain of Southampton Football

Club, to inspire and entertain the audience. Mr Bowerman's speech focused on being 'the best version of yourself', with some touching stories from Mr Bowerman's past as a Social Worker, specialising in helping young people who were affected by HIV/AIDS. Throughout the evening of celebration guests were also treated to some of the outstanding talented performers at The Blandford School.

Performances included Year 11 student Emma Wright performing 'Another Suitcase from Another Hall' from the school's upcoming musical production 'Evita', Year 10 student Sidney Jenkinson performing 'Hall of Fame' by The Script, whilst being accompanied by talented dance duo Jasmine Upward and Connie Wharton (Year 8).

They were followed by Year 13 pianist George Dutton, and by a sneak preview from The Blandford School's upcoming 10th Anniversary Performance being held at The Tivoli Theatre, with Year 13 students

Charlotte Legg and Frankie Yeatman performing 'It's Raining on Prom Night' from the musical 'Grease'. Charlotte and Frankie were accompanied by Joseph Empson (Year 13) on Piano and dancers Grace Gardiner (Year 11), Sophie Rouillier (Year 11) and Jasmine Upward (Year 8). Year 11 duo Megan Stevens and Freya Inglis entertained the crowd with their performance of 'Long Night' by 'With Confidence', before long-standing performer Joseph Empson (Year 13) performed an astounding 'Movie Medley' on the piano, which he'd composed himself. Our youngest performer of the evening was Year 7 student Tess Clark, who performed a beautiful piece of Ballet, and finally guests were given another preview of 'Evita' by leading principal Francesca Yeatman; who is playing Evita, performing 'Don't Cry For Me Argentina'.



# STUDENTS ENGAGE IN PIXL EDGE

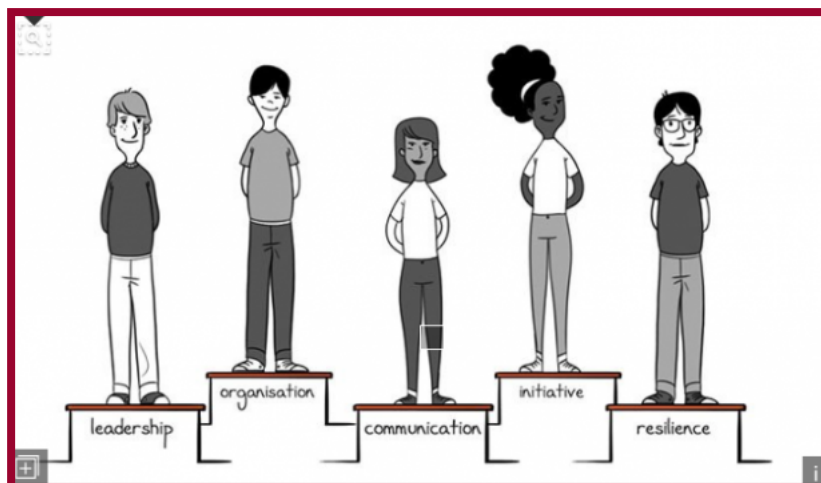
All students in years 8, 9 and 10 are now engaged in PiXL Edge. The aim of this programme is to develop students' 'softer skills' which are essential for success both in school and in the future, with employers and universities. The skills it focuses on are:

- Leadership
- Organisation
- Resilience
- Initiative
- Communication

Students have to select the activities using the on-line platform <https://theedge.pixl.org.uk/>. All students have a unique username and password. They then complete these activities either inside or outside of school and once finished go back on-line to evaluate the activity they have completed. Once they have completed all of the activities students will receive the Apprentice Award and will then have the opportunity to move on to the 'Graduate' programme.

[Click here to view a video link to find out more.](#)

Parents and carers can help by supporting their child completing both the activities and updating their profile on-line with the completed activities.



## CYCLE HELMETS

If your son/daughter is cycling to school please can you ensure that they are wearing the correct safety equipment - helmet/high visibility jackets etc. Please remind students about the importance of riding their bikes safely on their journey to school. Thank you for your co-operation.

# CYBER DISCOVERY

## **CYBER DISCOVERY – A new learning initiative for Year 10 - 13 Students to help reduce the UK's cyber skills gap**

Cyber Discovery is a brand new programme which has been designed to inspire young people to learn cyber security skills in a fun and exciting environment. Aimed at Year 10 - 13 students, it imparts some of the skills and knowledge that will help participants secure employment in the profession in the future.

Cyber Discovery is an extracurricular, non-compulsory initiative whereby students learn through a series of challenges in the form of an online game. Participants are introduced to vital skills such as ethical hacking, penetration testing and digital forensics in an environment that is safe and uses language and concepts that they can identify with. The programme lasts up to four years, and is currently only available to students in Years 10 - 13.

Initially students must take part in an online assessment that will determine their suitability for the programme. 'Cyber Start Assess' identifies those who possess the cognitive traits that are typical of successful cyber security practitioners.

To register for this exciting initiative please visit [www.joincyberdiscovery.com](http://www.joincyberdiscovery.com).

If as a parent you're interested in becoming a club leader, you can also register at the link above. If you would like anymore information please email [hello@joincyberdiscovery.com](mailto:hello@joincyberdiscovery.com) or download them from [www.joincyberdiscovery.com/resources](http://www.joincyberdiscovery.com/resources).

## **YEAR 11 PROM DETAILS ANNOUNCED**

We are pleased to announce that the 2018 Year 11 Prom will be held at Athelhampton House, near Dorchester.

Letters for ticket deposits and the formation of the prom committee will happen in January.

We are hoping to start a small prom dress/suit shop/exchange for students to buy outfits. If you know of anyone who has an old prom dress or suit lying around they would be very gratefully received.

If you have any further queries at this time please contact Nicola Fulker or Teresa Carter.



# SPORTS WATCH

## TBS GIRLS NORTH DORSET CHAMPIONS

A huge congratulations to all students who took part in the Badminton North Dorset Netball Tournament on Tuesday 12th December. We were absolutely ecstatic to learn our girls A Team were victorious, and are therefore North Dorset Champions! To round off an excellent afternoon for our talented Badminton players – the team they faced in the final were our Girls B team! Our Boys fared well with the B team finishing in 3rd and the A team in 7th. All matches were officiated exceptionally well by our 6th Form Sports Leaders. Pictured right are 4 of the 5 winning girls – Maisy, Poppy, Georgie and Lilijan.



## Famous Flagbearers at the Netball Superleague

Girls from our Netball Academy visited the netball Tri-Tournament at Team Bath on 6<sup>th</sup> January. They were fortunate to see 3 very close games between Team Bath, Severn Stars (local rivals) and Superleague champions Wasps.

12 girls were selected to be Flagbearers at the start of the game. The whole tournament was Live Streamed on the BBC and on the red button.

Teambath won all 3 of their games and it was great to see such a high standard of netball with many international players on show.

At the end of the games the players were happy to sign autographs and pose for selfies.



## MORE COUNTY HONOURS FOR TBS STUDENTS

In further sporting recognition for The Blandford School students, Year 11 student Alfie Arnett is another in an ever growing list of students to represent the county of Dorset. Alfie has been selected to play for the U16 football side, and has already represented his county twice in cup fixtures, with the most recent being a thrilling 2-1 victory against Buckinghamshire. Congratulations Alfie!



For our latest sporting news, follow us on Twitter! **@TBS\_PE**

## STUDENTS ATTEND ROTARY CLUB DINNER TO RECEIVE AWARDS

On Wednesday 3rd January three sixth form students from The Blandford School attended a dinner organised by The Blandford Stour Rotary Club in Blandford Forum with TBS Staff member Helen Gibb. Year 13 students Archie Clarke and Scott Jones were awarded with £50 prizes for their considerable contributions towards last year's Young Enterprise programme. The Blandford School would like to thank The Blandford Stour Rotary club for inviting the students to this dinner, and for all of their continued support and sponsorship of the school.



## YEAR 9 GIRLS SPREAD CHRISTMAS JOY AT KINGFISHER WARD

After the story brought to you in the last edition of the newsletter we were delighted to receive photographs of Year 9 students Courtney and Alexandra handing out the donations of toys and games they received from peers, parents and staff at the Kingfisher Ward in Dorchester. We're all so very proud of your efforts to spread cheer at Christmas time girls - congratulations!



# 'HUMANITY' - A POEM BY BRADLEY DENMAN (YEAR 10)

Humans are animals that harm other animals,  
For sport and fun but when the killings done,  
Humans shall remain so hatred and war will reign.

Violence and hate clouds our minds,  
Especially the young and witless,  
Who stand by and witness,  
The seniors compelling the juniors,  
The importance of injustice,  
The irony is extraordinary,  
Since that causes enmity,  
Forging disparity without mercy.

So when a person judges another,  
Or harms a beautiful passive creature,  
Humanity descends a little further,  
To the expanding cosmos we wither.

*"I got my inspiration to write the poem from a teenager walking in a corridor alone, hands in pockets, striding one shoulder after another, without a care in the world, in a way that would make you think less of a person at first glance. Which got me thinking about humanity and all it's negatives in general, such as the fact that people don't like to be called animals because we think we're special in some way so I rolled with it, which progressed onto the oppression of the hierarchy system and finally onto the prejudice we all have which some of us act upon foolishly. So I wrote a poem about it."*

Bradley Denman - Year 10 Student.



# THE ARTS

## DANCE PERFORMANCE EVENING

On Monday 4th December 2017 The Blandford School hosted its first ever Dance Performance Evening - the perfect opportunity for friends and family to witness the outstanding talent of the dancers from GCSE and A Level Dance. Performances ranged from our Year 10 GCSE Dance group performing some group pieces to our Year 13s performing their A Level solo performances they will use for their final examination.



A few photos of Year 11 students working incredibly hard during their 10 hour PPE examination in late November.





At the end of term the year 13 Art students were fortunate to have an opportunity to exchange sketchbooks with the A Level Art students at the Bournemouth School for Boys. This provided an excellent opportunity for both groups of students to review the work of others, providing guidance and suggestions about how to develop their work to further enhance grade potential. With only a month to go before the end of the coursework, all advice will be listened to closely as our ambitious students move towards their examination preparation.



## CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION



1st Place - Archie Vanden Dool



2nd Place - Isabelle Mullen



3rd Place - Sasha Payne

## THE BLANDFORD SCHOOL RECEIVES FIRST BURSARY GRANT FROM BLANDFORD ARTS SOCIETY

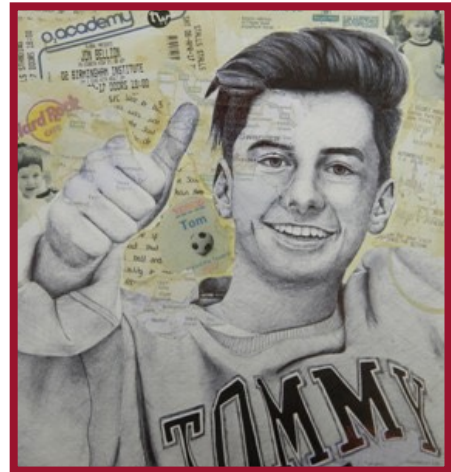
This years Presentation Evening saw the very first awarding of £300 from The Blandford Art Society. Each year this will be awarded to a year 13/14 Senior Art student who is undertaking an 'Arts' degree which could be film, animation, 3D, fine Art, textiles etc. This very generous bursary will be awarded for the next five years.

The student receiving the bursary will need to show how the money has been spent on their studies, through possible gallery visits or materials purchased; two pieces of their art work will be exhibited in Blandford Art Society Annual Exhibition in August at the Corn Exchange.

# FEATURED ARTWORK



**Daisy Storer**  
**Year 11**



**Amy Lewis**  
**Year 11**



**Alfie Arnett**  
**Year 11**



**Kira Ford**  
**Year 11**

# RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

This term will see a lot of changes regarding the RRS Award. The steering group, which is made up of students across all year groups, are focusing on the key articles from the UNCRC which they think are most relevant to school life here in Blandford. They are going to make new posters for all classrooms. As well as this, we are thinking about ways in which we can promote the UNCRC and raise awareness of children's rights. It will be discussed more frequently in and outside of lessons and new displays will be popping up around the school. This is a whole school initiative which involves students, staff, parents and governors. If you are interested in being involved or think you can help out in any way please contact Miss Channon.

## **Article 2 (non-discrimination) Article 31 (leisure, play and culture)**

In Dorset we have a wide range of opportunities, as well as different surroundings. A good example of this is the beaches that we have within a close distance as well as the countryside itself. You can go camping, climbing, swimming in the sea or rivers and generally have a variety of opportunities on your door step. Compared to the area the article we have studied is based in.

So this month we have chosen a rather positive article, in the area south of the river Thames known as Brixton. Located there is Ebony Horse Club, a horse club like no other. The horse club aims to help children that have been referred there to come out of their shell.

Many of the children that arrive at the horse club are scared at first due to only ever seeing aggressive dogs on their estate or never seeing a horse in real life before. The horse club is a sanctuary for local children. The children can be referred to the club for many reasons; behaviour issues, bad home life, trouble at school, mental health issues etc. This helps adhere to Article 2 (non discrimination) as no child is being turned away and they do their best to take every child.

Recently a boy with a mental health condition spoke his first word in nine years which was the name of the horse that he rides "Buddy". This was due to being in the calming environment of Ebony horse club. This is a massive boost for the club as it shows just a small portion of the good work that it is doing. It also means that they are having a big impact on children as well.

Some 400 children and young people now ride at the horse club and the club starts accepting children from the age of 8. The club has handpicked youth workers and it is said that it's easier to get a child to open up when they are distracted by grooming a horse etc rather than in a face to face situation confined to a room.

The club has also seen 70% of users go on into Equine studies and, considering many of the back grounds, this is amazing. The club also organises trips away to areas such as the Brecon Beacons or Gloucestershire and for many of the children it's their first time out of Brixton and into the countryside. This is great for the children as it allows them to play and gives them a range of activities to participate in which is promoting their right to play.

For many of us here in Dorset we don't understand how much this means to them as we take our day to day surroundings for granted but the reality is that for many it isn't the norm and they are used to built up estates.



Dear Parent/Carer

## **COMMUNICATING BEHAVIOUR CONCERNS RESULTING IN LUNCH-TIME DETENTIONS**

We are trialling what we hope will be an improvement to the way we communicate any behaviour concerns which result in your child receiving a lunch-time detention.

With immediate effect, we will place a sticker in your child's diary giving the date and a brief explanation of the reason for the detention. This will ensure that you are able to maintain an overview of any behaviour concerns from your weekly review of your child's diary, but reduce the number of emails or text messages which we send through to you. We will continue to email or text you with information relating to any all day isolations, or after school detentions.

The new routines will be formally reviewed at the end of the academic year, with any minor changes introduced immediately as improvements are identified.

Yours sincerely

**Penny White**

**Assistant Headteacher, Progress, Guidance and Welfare**

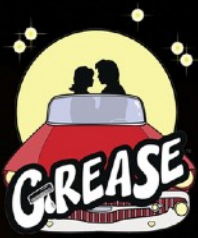
## **STUDENTS ATTEND SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE**

On 4th December 2017 four A level students from The Blandford School attended the Senior Team Mathematics Challenge at Poole High School. The competition tests students mathematical, communication and teamwork skills, and The Blandford School were proud to finish in 18th place. The event was packed with over 100 young people in attendance to compete in the challenge. The competition is organised by the Further Maths Support Programme in partnership with UK Mathematics Trust and sponsored by Rolls-Royce.

Back in November, 16 of our A Level students took part in the Senior Mathematical Challenge, an exam-style competition which aims to stimulate mathematical problem solving.

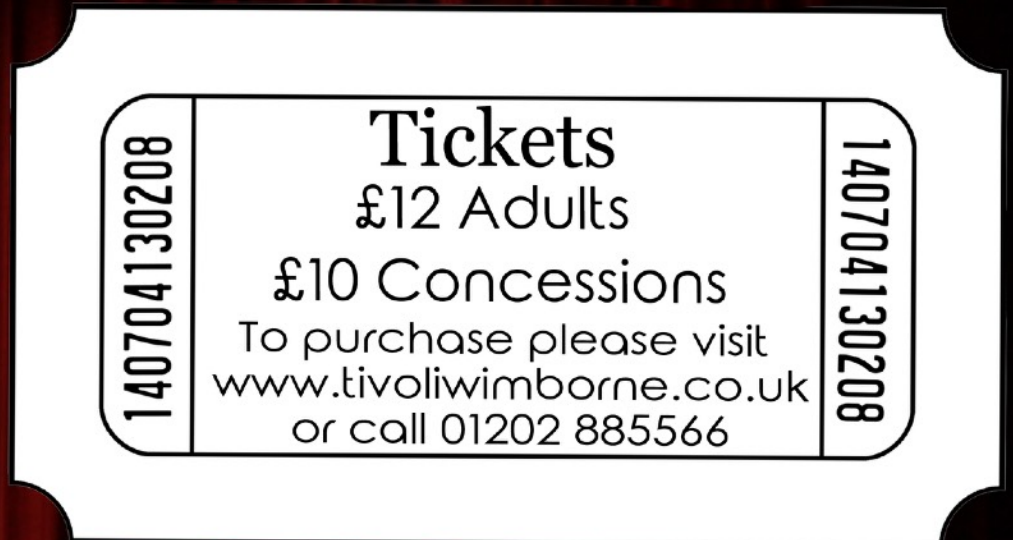






TBS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY

# 10th Anniversary Concert Tuesday 17th April 2018 7pm



The  
**TIVOLI**  
Theatre

THE **BLANDFORD**  
**SCHOOL**



THE  
**PHANTOM**  
OF THE OPERA

INTO THE  
**WOODS**

