

NEWSLETTER



FOODBANK DONATION

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 18th - Fri 22nd Feb
Half Term Holiday

Monday 25th February
Staff Training Day

Friday 5th April
Last Day of Term

Mon 8th - Fri 26th April
Easter Holidays

NATIONAL CHAMPION



PRESENTATION EVENING



ART TRIP



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@blandfordschool The Blandford School



SPORTS WATCH

Year 13 student becomes National Taekwondo Champion!

On Saturday 27th October Year 13 student Billy Hitchcock travelled to the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield to compete in the British National Championships Taekwondo. Entering in the <59kg U18 category against 5 other competitors, Billy was given a bye into the Semi-Finals. Winning that by a round 1 knockout, Billy advanced to the final where he won 23-17. Billy's next step to Taekwondo stardom is entering an international open competition being held in Belgium in January 2019.



TBS Student scores as Dorset U14's win 6-0!

A massive congratulations to all the girls involved in the 6-0 win for Dorset U14's vs Devon, but a particular well done to our own Year 9 student Jaz who scored one of the goals!



Multiple awards for Year 10 student representing the Dorset Ladies Cricket



Congratulations to Year 10 student Mollie for winning a number of awards at the recent Dorset Ladies cricket awards. Amongst other awards, Mollie won were U15 player of the season and Batter of the Season across all age groups. Mollie's total of 436 runs scored put her 10th in the country for highest number of runs in the U15 age group.

RUNNING CLUB CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Monday Night Fun Running club had its 'Christmas Special' this week where we enjoyed the '12 runs of Christmas', which really involved lots of dubiously linked running activities. Lots of fun was had by all and we especially thank Lottie Boulton (Y7) for the brownies she baked and Constance Corben (Y7) for the beautiful Rudolph cakes we finished with.



This new club, set up in September has a regular following of approximately 20 students and a few staff members. We are always keen for new members so make it your New Year's Resolution to come and try it. We start the FIRST Monday back after Christmas (7th January) and we look forward to another 'Blandford School does Parkrun' on Saturday 2nd February.

6TH FORM STUDENT REPRESENTS DORSET & WILTS U18 RUGBY TEAM

A huge congratulations to Sixth Form student Fraser Minchella, who has been selected to play County Rugby for Dorset & Wiltshire over the past 2 seasons. Playing as a scrum-half, Fraser is currently playing his club rugby for Sherborne RFC, a team he's been with for 5 years. Fraser has been selected to represent Dorset & Wiltshire twice in the Southwest trials matches, watched by Southwest and England selectors at Hornets Rugby Club. We will watch your progress with great interest Fraser, congratulations on your achievements.



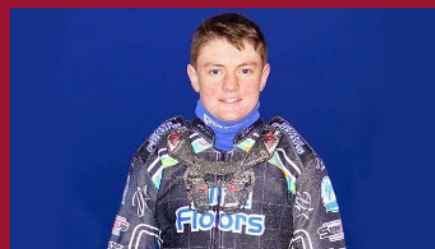
Congratulations to our Year 8 girls who won the KS3 North Dorset Badminton Tournament held at Sturminster Newton High School. This victory means we are the district champions!!

Our Year 11 girls were unlucky to finish as runners up in the KS4 North Dorset Badminton Tournament, making them the runners up in the district.

Our Year 10 football team will be competing in the quarter finals of the County Cup after defeating Winton 3-1. The quarter final is a showdown against Gillingham School this month.

The TBS PE department would like to thank Sid, Chris and Mrs Bailey for doing such a fantastic job of running the Badminton club.

A massive congratulations to Chad Wirtzfeld who has been signed to ride for Speedway Isle of Wight side The Warriors in 2019. Chad will be their youngest ever rider!



RIDING OF SCOOTERS AND BICYCLES TO SCHOOL

We are receiving an increasing number of concerns regarding unsafe riding of scooters and bicycles from members of the public.

Specifically, these relate to students who are riding against the flow of oncoming traffic, and riding across roads without stopping to check that it is safe to do so.

If your child rides a scooter or bicycle to and from school, can you please reinforce the importance of riding safely, and also encourage the wearing of helmets at all times. The health and safety of all our students is our main concern, and we would appreciate your assistance in reiterating the dangers which are faced by scooter riders and cyclists if they take risks of this type.

Year 10 students deliver huge TBS donation to local Foodbank

Year 10 students Nathan and Sam are pictured below, delivering The Blandford School donation to the Foodbank at the Methodist Church in town. The organisers of the Foodbank were extremely grateful for this generous donation of food, particularly as the weather gets colder and winter approaches.

The house competition results were Montfort 1st, Beaumont 2nd, Lacy 3rd, Lancaster 4th.

A huge thank you to all students who donated food.



The Miracle Fish

by Gracie Cole (7LEE)

Life supports beeping away,
Slow breathing, you think this is the end.
It hurts to move a single muscle.
You struggle to unclamp your fins because they feel like rusted weights.
Hungry, tired, breathless, you wait.
The next feeding comes,
You eat in pain.
Pretending to feel fine, you swim around,
Trying to look happy for them.

The next day, you wake up
And are being whizzed around by the harsh and powerful filter.
It feels like a roller coaster you don't want to be on.
Silently screaming because you're a fish.
Your only friend is an old murky plant.

Floating down they think I'm dead.
Just breathing hurts.
For days I lie there, hurting more and more.
Breathing still hurts.
I now lie hungry and bored.
The only thing that could entertain me was the filter.
What has my life become?

ART TRIP TO LONDON

An Art trip to London with 60 students from year 10, 12 and 13 was a resounding success. Year 10 are studying for their first topic; Manmade and Natural. Year 12 & 13 were on a mission to find links to their personal investigation and exam project.

Students chose from two of the exhibitions, 'Fashioned From Nature' and 'Videogames; Plan, Design, Play', that are presently showing at the Victoria & Albert Museum, as well as touring the many galleries of art from around the world; from large forged pieces to delicate jewellery.

Lunch was in the Natural History Museum amongst the many fossils and natural objects adorning the walls and glass cases. The Blue Whale nose diving in the great hall, since Dippy is on his travels, was also exciting to see. The architecture in the Natural History Museum was beautifully carved and positioned and a must be admired moment. A very long day, albeit a thoroughly enjoyable one, where some students shared that it was their first trip to London.



Halloween Horror Reading Event a Thrilling Success!

Students and parents were treated to an evening of spooky fun at our first ever Halloween Horror reading event. Screams echoed throughout the corridors as visitors completed our spine-chilling book hunt (made particularly frightening through the scare-tactics of Mr Tovey, Mrs Gibb, Evren Eren, Billy Hitchcock, Talitha Fisher and Ellen Wyldes).

Down in the library, students and parents were introduced to a range of horror books and were also provided with incredibly useful information from members of the Blandford Library team who were there to promote all of the e-books and e-audio books which can be accessed online for free via the library's website and app, 'Borrow Box'. As well as hot chocolate, sweets and treats, students were finally entertained by Mr Tovey, our mystery ghoul, who delivered a particularly creepy story in the darkness of an unlit library.

Special thanks must go to Tesco for providing us with a range of treats and to the Blandford Rotary Club who lent some of their fabulous Halloween Angus Woods props to us, enabling us to transform our corridors into a House of Horror.

GCSE & A LEVEL STUDENTS PERFORM IN LINE WITH TOP END SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY

In the last few weeks, the national picture for school performance has been released and has allowed us to reflect on our summer results in comparison to schools nationally. Our initial delight at the quality of results achieved at both GCSE and post-16 has been confirmed by this release and shown that the students of The Blandford School performed in line with the top end of schools in the country.

At GCSE, our school progress score, which measures the rate of progress made from students' SAT scores to GCSE, was significantly above the national average and placed us in the top 27% of schools in the country, including selective schools. In addition, our attainment score, which identifies the quality of grades achieved by students, placed us in the top 26% of schools nationally.

Within these figures, we can also see huge successes by different groups of students. Boys bucked the national trend by closing the progress gap between boys and girls. Highly academic students achieved a rate of progress that was significantly above progress made by highly academic students across the country, placing in them in the top 20% in the country, and in the top 10% for the EBacc subjects collectively and Science. For this group overall, 56 Grade 9s were achieved, the highest grade and awarded to the top 3% of students.

English and Maths results were also above the national average, with 66% of students achieving a Grade 4 in both English and Maths. Overall, 76% of students gained a Grade 4 or above in English and 72% of students gained a Grade 4 or above in Maths.

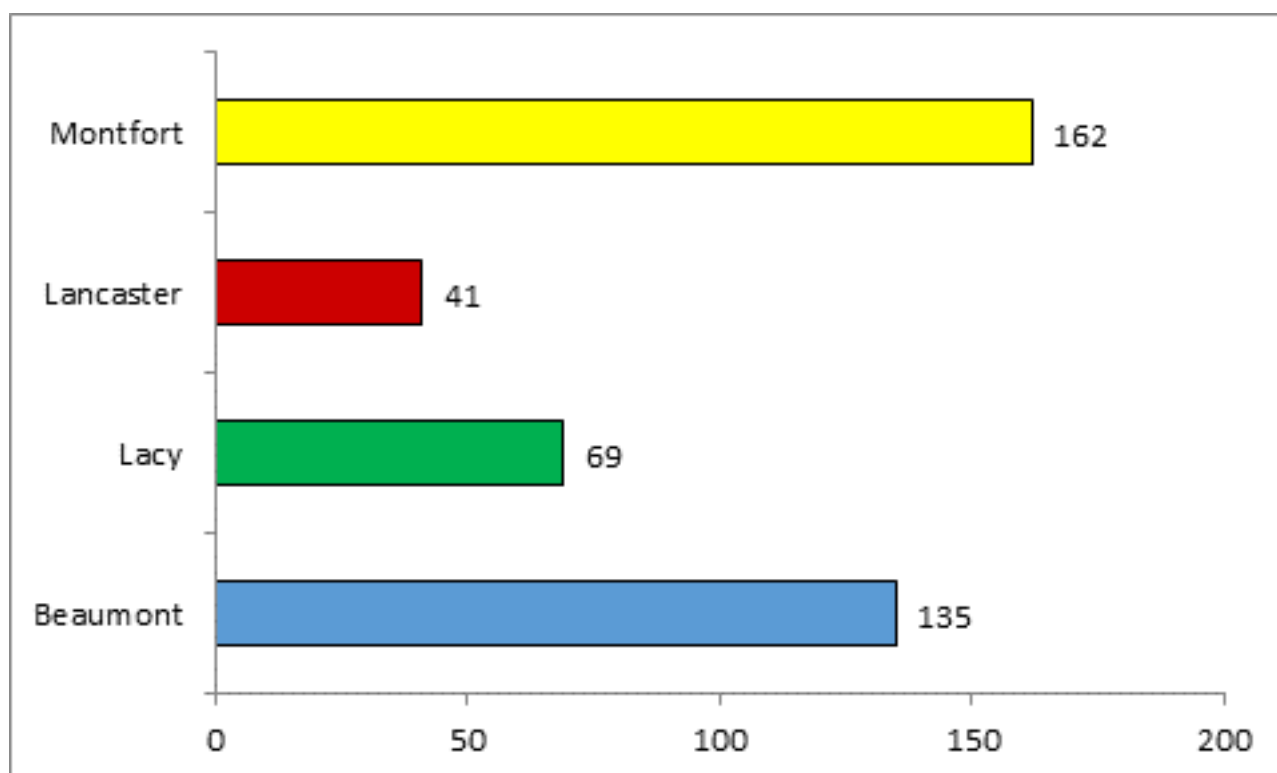
At A-level, over a quarter of grades were at A*-A and over half of grades were between A*-B. Along with 76% of grades achieved between Distinction* and Distinction in vocational qualifications, this has resulted in a progress score that places The Blandford School fourth amongst sixth forms in Dorset, including independent schools. Six subjects, including Chemistry, Physics and Economics, achieved a level of progress from GCSE that is in line with the top 25% of schools nationally.

We are absolutely thrilled for our ex Year 11 and ex Year 13 students whose hard work paid off, we will be celebrating with them at Presentation Evening in December. We would also like to congratulate the staff in a year of significant curriculum and assessment change.



Reading House Competition Update

This term, students of all ages and year groups have written or spoken reviews of 407 books that they have read. Each review has earned their house a point (see chart for results) but the student with the most reviews in each year group also earned themselves a prize. The competition will continue after Christmas so that students can continue to earn points for their house but the individual scores will return to 0. Who will be the Year group Easter egg winners? Ask your tutor for book review forms or come and see Mrs Hayball at Monday's Books and Biscuits club if you would prefer to talk about a book you have read.



Year Group Christmas Winners:

Year 7 - Darcy Bagg - 30
Year 8 - Quinn Lawes - 6
Year 9 - Robin Clarke - 12
Year 10 - Libby Cairns - 3
Year 11 - Caitlin Rees - 6
Year 12 - James Huish - 36

CELEBRATING SUCCESS: PRESENTATION EVENING

On the evening of Thursday 20th December staff, the local community, parents and students past and present attended The Blandford School's annual Presentation Evening, celebrating the record breaking success in the last academic year. Prizes were awarded for academic progress, academic excellence and to those who have shown excellent commitment and talent within the local community and in extra curricular activities. Upon arrival, guests were treated to a buffet of food, prepared by a selection of our Year 10 food students and Miss Channon, Food teacher. The night was also an opportunity to showcase the immense talent from within our Performing & Creative Arts department. The guest speaker for the evening was former England international rugby player Scott Bemand, who spoke to the students about grasping every opportunity to reach their potential and dreams. The Blandford School wish to thank all those who donated and presented awards throughout this fantastic evening, and a thank you to all who attended.



eBooks for Free

We all know that exposing our children to a wide range of reading material is essential if they are to succeed at school but we also know how difficult it can be to access suitable texts and to make sure that reading is a regular part of their daily routine. Sharing reading experiences is one of the best ways of ensuring your child is developing their reading skills – either by setting aside time when you read together as a family or by continuing to read aloud to your child, introducing them to books which are that little bit more challenging.

If all of that sounds a little daunting, however, there is an easy solution to hand! You can now download ebooks, audio books and emagazines, free of charge via your Dorset Library membership. The Borrow Box app is a particularly useful resource that can be programmed on sleeper mode to play an audio book for a set period of time. In essence, your child can be read to as they're falling asleep each night. There are plenty of books to choose from covering a range of genres and suitable for all ages. For more information, search for 'Borrow Box' on www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk.



A huge well done to our Year 13 CTEC business students who successfully raised over £300 for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

MFL CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION



A massive congratulations to the winners Connie Lewis and Grace Seeley of Year 7. A huge well done also to runners up Darcy Bagg, Mia Madders, Daisy Ryan-East, and Mandy Harding (all Year 7).

SIXTH FORM STUDENTS VOLUNTEER AT COMMUNITY KITCHEN

A group of 5 Sixth Form students from The Blandford School have been part of a volunteer group working for the Community Kitchen in the build up to Christmas. During October, over 174 meals were served across two days, with our students being a part of either the washing up, craft or kitchen teams. Johnathon Triffit, organiser of the Community Kitchen, said the students 'did a fantastic job and went above and beyond what was expected of them. They are an absolute credit to the school.'