

NEWSLETTER

Student Forum Winter Update

Hear from our Head Boy, Jamie and Head Girl, Ellen on the next page.....



Dates for your Diary

Friday 17th December - Last day of term

Tuesday 4th January - Staff INSET Day

Wednesday 5th January - School is open to students in years 13, 12, 11 and 7.

Work will be set remotely for students in years 8, 9 and 10

Thursday 6th January—School is open to ALL students.

Thursday 13th January—Year 10 Virtual Parents' Evening

Thursday 27th January - Year 9 Virtual Parents' Evening

Monday 21st February - Friday 25th February - Half Term

Student Forum Winter Update from our Head Boy and Head Girl

As Head Students, we came into this term with new ideas and ambitions for what we wanted to achieve during our time in post. We are really pleased with the positive progress made in such a short space of time already and we feel very fortunate to take on these roles, knowing that we have a great wider team around us continuing to support our intentions for the year ahead.

2021 has seen the introduction of our first official prefect body consisting of Senior Students in years 12 and 13. As a group of senior leaders we were given the opportunity to join Bryanston School, back at the start of September, in undertaking some leadership training – an excellent chance for us all to consider our own personal goals as well as values as a united team. We were inspired by Bryanston’s set-up to delegate our prefect body into categories of focus for the year ahead. Current groups consist of Charity, Sustainability, Events and Equality/Wellbeing with their intentions outlined in the following pages.

One of our main focuses has surrounded the Student Forum – a platform in which Tutor Representatives are chosen from each tutor group to represent student views and contribute to larger Student Forum meetings and discussions. Listening to student voice has been a challenge in the last years with social distancing and year group bubbles, as well as large gatherings restricted. We have been very fortunate to be able to hold two Student Forum meetings this term in which we outlined our priorities of focus for the year ahead.

Equality/Wellbeing Update:

Our vision as Equality and Wellbeing Prefects is to create an environment in which inclusivity is a focal point, making changes that will support a safe and accepting school atmosphere. In order to do this, our initial intention is to create an online suggestion box accessible for all students as a collaborative place to leave ideas/ contributions to support us in creating this environment. Our first step in approaching inclusivity is to adapt something as customary as the use of language in school – focussing on language used in letters as a starting point. We hope that introducing gender-inclusive language will act as a simple but powerful statement in promoting gender equality in our everyday lives. As the new year approaches, we are beginning to explore how we can promote a well-rounded representation of Women’s History, Black History and Pride across our curriculum.

Sasha, Lily, Alice & Raine



Charity Update:

At the start of the year, we handed out slips to all children in the lower school to survey what they'd like to see The Blandford School supporting. We have since met with a local charity to fundraise for a young boy hoping to have life-changing surgery which would significantly improve his quality of life and we hope to organise an event in the new year to support him further. We are also working with a school in Zambia to donate shoes for children in need. In the run-up to Christmas, we will be asking students to bring in an old pair of shoes for donation if possible. Responding to suggestions made by the Student Body, we will endeavour to support Young Minds during Mental Health week and look to fundraise for Cancer Research UK when we return after Christmas.

Kayleigh, Ella & Rosema

Notable Mention:

Miss Griffin and I are currently running the school's debating club and we are planning to enter two teams of three in the Rotary Club's 'Youth Speaks: The Debate' competition in the new year. Each team chooses a proposal; our teams have chosen 'PE lessons should not be gender segregated' and 'Ghosts exist'. During our weekly sessions, the teams prepare for the competition, developing points to make and practicing their debates. New students are welcome to attend Wednesday's after-school in Rm 305.

Ethan

Sustainability Update:

This year in Charity, we are determined to develop the school's sustainability ethos; working closely with the Climate Club. The climate tree project is in full force with students from lower years making promises on leaves that will be hung on newly planted trees. We are also supporting the Climate Club's Christmas Raffle with money raised going towards funds for our school to build its own wildflower meadow that we hope will encourage wildlife, particularly bees and butterflies, since their importance is often forgotten.

Lauren & Hannah

Events Update:

As Events Prefects, we have been working hard to bring the school new and exciting events to help re-establish the connection between year groups which has been affected as a result of the pandemic. Unfortunately, due to the latest set of restrictions, we are no longer able to hold our planned Year 7 Christmas Disco nor Sixth Form Winter Formal Prom, though we will look to rearrange these in the new year. In the meantime, in true Christmas spirit, we are planning to arrange Christmas-themed activities involving both year group and tutor competitions.

Poppy, Finn, Robert, Millie & Jamie





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, uncomfortable or unsafe.

Our growing Anti-Bullying Team, with representatives from years 7 up to the Sixth Form, is busy concentrating on spreading the message about this year's national theme of 'One Kind Word.' It has been very pleasing to all be able to meet as a team again, outside of our bubbles at last! The Sixth Form members have very much taken the lead this term. The entire team wrote, filmed and presented their own assembly which was shown to all students during anti-bullying week in November. We plan to work in collaboration with at least one of our feeder primaries in the new year and have plans for face-to-face assemblies as soon as they become possible again.

The pandemic has brought with it many challenges for young people, some of whom have struggled greatly with periods of isolation from their peers. Modelling good practice on-line and keeping an eye on social media interactions between your child and their friends 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 very much welcome and need your ongoing help and support.

After-School Anti-Bullying Workshops recommence.

The colleagues from two of our local partner organisations, Treads and Victim Support, will recommence their Monday after-school workshops to promote Anti-Bullying/Mental Health sessions in the new year. The sessions will run on the dates below, in the Stour Room, from 3.45pm until 4.45pm.

Along with promoting the anti-bullying message, the workshops have the added aim of helping young people with their anxiety, confidence and mental health – and allow opportunities to meet like-minded friends from different year groups. The team have worked with us over several years now and students have always enjoyed and benefitted from the activities. The sessions are open to anyone who attended in the Autumn term but we will always welcome new members. Anyone who is interested in attending, just let Mrs White know in advance, in order that we have an idea of numbers.

10 January 2022	17 January 2022	24 January 2022	31 January 2022
07 February 2022	14 February 2022	21 February 2022	28 February 2022
07 March 2022	14 March 2022	21 March 2022	

The Youth service will be offering drop-in sessions at The Blandford School twice per month during the school day during the Spring term. The provision will be aimed towards identified young people who do not have other support in place and who will benefit from conversations with trained adults from outside of the school community and, if appropriate, some more bespoke work.

Mrs Wilson's reflections on The Class of 2021

I am really sorry that we have needed to cancel Presentation Evening this December due to Covid, but would like to celebrate the success of our students with you.

We're really pleased to report some excellent performances by our year 11 students in 2021. This year, following the cancellation of externally set exams, grades were awarded through a process of teacher assessed grades against a national standard and approved and awarded by the exam boards.

Students in year 11 worked extremely hard over the course of their time with us and must be credited by us all for their resilience through the coronavirus disruption of 2020/21; they were engaged, focused and determined to succeed.

Over the last few years, our results at KS4 and post 16 have been very good in comparison with schools nationally. Indeed many subjects at TBS perform well above average and some are 'outstanding' when compared against other state schools and the independent sector. As a team, we welcomed back a high percentage of students back into the TBS sixth form, and to those who moved on, we wished them well and asked them to stay in touch.

Parents and students will be aware the school prides itself on a broad and balanced curriculum. Every year, students embark on an exceptionally wide variety of destinations and this year has been no exception. Three ex Year 13 students are now studying Medicine, two are completing a Midwifery degree and one a Nursing degree. In a year when applications to medicine-related degrees increased by 20% on the previous year, this is a fantastic achievement. Two students are studying Veterinary Science, another competitive field. One student is studying History and Politics at Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge University. We have students studying the Arts with students taking degrees in Illustration, Dance and Professional Acting. Some students have broken into new degree areas such as Renewable Energy Engineering at Exeter University and Football Business and Marketing at UCFB, Wembley Campus. We also have students who have gone on to study Economics, Law, Chemistry, Italian and Spanish, amongst others. In addition to the 76% of students studying at university other students have gone directly into employment such as at Damory Veterinary Clinic and three students are applying to join the Police.

We wish them all well and once again regret we are unable to celebrate in person.



Dorset History



At the end of October we took our Year 10 students to Shire Hall in Dorchester to help with their GCSE History studies looking at Crime and Punishment from 1000 to the present day. The students had the opportunity to analyse primary evidence produced on two young criminals in Dorset. Sydney Wilkins, a 15 year old in the 1830s, committed arson in Bridport and students used the primary evidence to analyse the case to find out what happened to Sydney Wilkins and why. Some of the other students

looked at Harry Parker who was around 7 years old and committed arson in Wareham in the 1870s. Again, students analysed the primary evidence to find out what had happened to him. At the end of the session, the students put an argument together to say whether they agreed each of the two boys were treated fairly by the Criminal Justice system. The students then had this debate in the main courthouse after they had a tour of the cells. This has helped students to really identify how punishments have changed over time and what it was like in Dorset if you had committed these crimes



DORSET SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS CONSULTATION - 2023/2024

Dorset are running the annual consultation on the School Admission Arrangements for 2023/2024 with effect from **Monday 29th November 2021** to **Sunday 23rd January 2022**.

Details of the consultation will be available to view at <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/2023-to-2024-school-admissions-policies>

Responses must be submitted either in writing to School Admissions Team, Dorset Council, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ or by email to schoolorganisation@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by **Sunday 23rd January 2022**.

Upon the conclusion of the consultation period all responses will be considered carefully and a report will be presented to Dorset Council's Cabinet meeting on **1st March 2022**.





Applying for a place for your child at The Blandford School

To the Headteacher and staff. I would like to thank you for the brief insight into The Blandford School recently.

It is a daunting prospect for 10 year olds (and their parents) to be entering such a large and complex organisation compared to the primary school environment, in our case Blandford St Mary.

Special thanks must go to your pupils, who were, without exception, polite and helpful. They were a credit to your school.



Details of how to apply for a school place can be found on the school's website:

<https://blandfordschool.org.uk/applying-for-a-place/>



Remembrance Day

The Head Boy and Girl, with their deputies were proud to remember the fallen on 11 November 2021. The wreath laying, which included members of the ATC, was conducted after all students and staff in the school had observed a two minutes silence, watched an extremely poignant

remembrance assembly and listened to a student bugler playing the Last Post. Year 10 student, Harry W played the Last Post expertly.



Sixth Form Volunteers

Such a lovely letter to receive after some of our Sixth Form students had helped out at the Community Kitchen.

Dear Mrs Moore,

The members of the Community Kitchen Team were so impressed with the students who supported us today at the Community Kitchen lunch. Each one was respectful, friendly and polite. All the students showed a willingness to try every role we suggested. In addition to general setting up and/or packing up, each student also carried out other roles, for example:

Zak and Ethan served hot drinks to guests very efficiently;

Aaron, Jessica and Lauren support our younger guests wonderfully in the Children's Room;

Kyle and Tabitha greeted our guests and later went on to do some craft activities for one of our future events;

Ellen, who is an "old hand" at Community Kitchen was great at serving food to our guests.

And last, but by no means least, Ethan, Zak and Tabitha swept the area in front of the Centre to make it look welcoming to our guests.

I look forward to working alongside the students who helped us today, together with Jessica (who helped on Monday), at future events.

With best wishes

Juliet

Community Kitchen



Sixth Form Artists

The Art Department took a group of Year 12 and 13 Art A'level students to Arts University Bournemouth, Portfolio Day on the 26th November. Students were given a tour of the campus and there were two discussion sessions on how to make your portfolio stand out before your interview. Universities are now expecting a digital portfolio submission to be sent to them before the interview process. This was a really insightful course for all students who are hoping in the future to study subject such as Illustration, Architecture and Gaming design. Thank you to AUB for inviting us.

Fundraising for the School Library

With the help of the wonderful Gillian Rodwell, we have been fundraising for books for our school Library and our English classrooms.

The Blandford School would like to offer our thanks to the following businesses for their support and generosity in our fundraising efforts.

Your very kind donations will help support us to provide wonderful new books for our young people to read.

If anyone would like to support our fundraising campaign, then please follow the link below. All donations will be gratefully received and generate an additional 60% funding from Usborne books.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/booksforblandfordschool>

The Sapling Gift Shop
51 East St,
Blandford Forum,
DT11 7DX
Tel: 01258 452640

**Aurora Gems Jewellery
Manufacturer**
31 Salisbury Street
Blandford Forum DT11 7JU
Tel: 07767304607 01258
480586
<http://auroragems.co.uk/>

Debbie's Barbers
Anchor Gateway
Salisbury Street
Blandford Forum DT11 7AR
Tel: 01258 459333

**Colin J. Close Funeral
Service**
Peel Close
Blandford Forum DT11 7JU
Tel: 01258 453133
info@close-funeral.co.uk

Iracroft Limited - metal pipe
and tube fabricated products
Unit 1 Blandford Heights
Industrial Estate
Blandford Forum DT11 7TE
Tel: 01258 486300

Kernon- Kelleher Solicitors
3 Greyhound Square
Blandford Forum DT11 7EB
Tel:01258 446288

Star Writer

Year 8 student, Orin, won first prize in the under 18 category of a writing competition organised by the Rotary club. He had to go and read his story aloud at an awards ceremony and was presented with a cheque for £50.



Thank you

A big thank you to YESSS Electrical for sponsoring 2 classrooms by providing 16 LED lightbulbs. They have also kindly pledged to sponsor another 3 classrooms soon.



Geocache in Blandford Forum

Blandford Forum Town Council has three hides at the following locations:

The Cemetery Park Road

Woodhouse Gardens / Dr Davies Memorial Garden (Multi-cache)

To find out more about each location have a wander around Blandford Forum. You can read and sign the log, and increase your step count at the same time!



The Cemetery

The Town Council's Cemetery has a Commonwealth War Graves Section containing 69 graves dating from 1915. The graves are Royal Navy, Royal Flying Corps, Royal Air Force, Army, Canadian Air Force and German Air Force. An information board has been installed to help recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces and raise awareness among members of the public of the issues that affect the Armed Forces today. The Cemetery also houses a chapel, the only such chapel in Dorset, and one of the relatively few in Britain as a whole, to retain its original furnishings with little or no modification as well as a non-Anglican chapel. Please do take a moment for reflection.

Park Road Recreation Ground

Park Road Recreation Ground. In 1914 John Iles Barnes left £2,500 to the Mayor, Alderman and Burgesses of Blandford Forum for the purposes of a recreation ground. Park Road Recreation Ground was purchased and over the years the remaining stock was expended on things such as laying out a bowling green and building a pavilion. Today the site is used by Blandford Bowling Club, Blandford Cricket Club, and Blandford Football Club, as well as housing a play area and used by members of the public for their enjoyment.

Woodhouse Gardens / Dr Davies Memorial Garden

In 1945 the land was given to the people of Blandford Forum in memory of Alfred and Florence Woodhouse as a quiet garden for old people and very young children. In 1953 a pavilion was built, for use by the community, and today anyone can hire the use of these facilities. Throughout the years there have been various additions to the gardens, such as the commemorative paving mosaic for the Charter 400 year, or the commemorative tree for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year in 2012.



THE BLANDFORD SCHOOL

Soldiers' Support with Lateral Flow Tests

Blandford Camp must be congratulated for their exceptional support during this term in helping the school with lateral flow testing of students. We are not only delighted with their support of this initiative but also the ongoing partnership work between the Camp and The Blandford School.

Their assistance in undertaking this vital work in support of keeping our community safe in these very unusual times has really helped us. It was a delight to work so closely with the Signallers, all of whom are at a very early stage of their professional training.



Sleep Easy 2021



100 students from The Blandford school camped out in sleeping bags and cardboard boxes in the school grounds as part of YMCA Bournemouth's Sleep Easy that raises money for the YMCA homeless project. This was the third time that TBS students have supported this fantastic cause, with more and more students wanting to take part each year.

They managed to raise nearly £5000, helped by Bryanston School kindly pledging £1000 in support. Prospect Insurers kindly donated prizes for the best shelter and Dominos very generously provided 20 pizzas! You can still donate via Virgin Money Giving, The Blandford School Big Sleep easy 2021.



Polite Reminder

Can we please remind parents that the Leisure Centre car park has a one way system. It is particularly important that this is adhered to during drop off and pick up times for the safety of our students.





The return of sports fixtures

Just before half term, we had the pleasure of taking a team of TBS boys from Years 10 & 11 on their Rugby fixture to the Gryphon School. This was their first fixture in approximately two years and they were an absolute credit to the school. Their effort levels and attitude were excellent throughout, Harry from Y11 captained them superbly, and along with Seb, Spencer and Henry, were all singled out by The Gryphon staff for their performance and conduct. As a result they managed to come away with a 47-10 win, despite having a minimum 15 players.

A huge congratulations to Y11 students Patrick and Stephen, who have been selected for the Dorset County U16 football squad for this season

Sixth Form Lead by Example at Carey Camp.

28 students from the Blandford School Sixth Form have successfully completed their Level 2 Community Sports Leaders Qualification through attending a residential weekend at Carey Camp in Wareham.

The 3 day programme included focusing upon key employability skills of communication, self-belief, teamwork, self-management and problem solving. They were provided with opportunities to lead their peer group and a large group of 50 Year 8 students who visited on the second day. As well as doing the sports sessions the Key Stage 3 students also engaged in story telling and natural art activities.

They are now looking forward to taking these skills into the wider community by supporting local sports clubs whilst also planning and organizing the House events for students at The Blandford School.



Year 9 student, Freddie, has been selected for a Swim England National talent programme, which selects the top swimmers in the country to go on training camps with the top coaches in the country. This is a huge achievement and we would like to congratulate Freddie on all his hard work.



TBS Badminton

On Thursday 2nd December, The Blandford School hosted the North Dorset Badminton Tournament .

Both B teams showed great resilience in some very close games but ultimately ended up as the bottom teams in their respected competitions. Our girls A team finished 3rd in a strong competition, only beaten by Sherborne Girls A & B teams. Our boys A team won their tournament and were crowned North Dorset Champions! Please congratulate them all.

So, the “North Dorset Powerhouse” that is TBS badminton rolls on, having secured 3 of the 4 possible badminton crowns available this year. A big thanks to Mrs Bailey who has run a very busy badminton club this term.

Congratulations to year 11 student, Olivia. She has been selected for the County Netball Squad . Olivia plays netball for the school team and North Dorset Netball club. She is a talented all round sportswoman and has represented the school in a number of different sports including football and badminton.



POLICIES

A reminder that many of our school policies, including our Safeguarding Policy and Child Protection Procedures and the Complaints Policy, 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.



Local Wildlife

TBS Science teacher Mr Cooper has placed some trail cameras in areas that are out-of-bounds for students, but great for wildlife! He wanted to find out what wildlife we had on the school grounds.

Mr Cooper has discovered that along with the usual foxes, deer, badgers etc that we have living on school grounds, we also have an otter that was captured by the trail camera.



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM (MHST) IN SCHOOLS

P A R E N T S / C A R E R S



Dorset
Mental
Health
Support
Team in
Schools

N E W S L E T T E R

Welcome to our MHST Newsletter. We hope that the Autumn term has been good for both parents/carers and children. It still feels a bit like we are not quite to "normal" yet, but schools and students have been coping really well with the challenges of covid and we hope you all have a good break over the Christmas holidays.

MHST IN SCHOOLS

Mental Health Support in Schools Teams (MHST) are part of a joint national initiative between the Department of Education and NHS England to improve access to psychological therapies for children and young people presenting with emerging low mood and mild to moderate anxiety within an educational environment.

The 3 core functions of the teams are:

- Delivering evidence based interventions for mild to moderate mental health issues through individual face to face work, group work for pupils or parents and group parenting.
- Supporting the school's mental health lead to introduce or develop their Whole School Approach to mental wellbeing.
- Giving timely advice to school and college staff, and liaising with external specialist services, to help children and young people to get the right support and stay in education.

There are currently three teams in Dorset: Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, Weymouth and Portland and North Dorset. All three teams are expanding and have recently recruited new staff which means they can all help even more students' in more schools across Dorset



WHAT HAVE THE MHST BEEN UP TO?

The MHST have been in a lot of schools over the last few months delivering group sessions to Key Stage 2 students as well as Year 7 in their new Secondary Schools. The MHST teams have also delivered staff training, created new resources for students and staff about emotional wellbeing and run groups for parents/carers to support them with their child's anxiety.

We have also been seeing a lot of young people and their families for 1:1 Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) sessions. We support young people with symptoms of social anxiety, low mood, separation anxiety, panic, OCD and some specific phobias.

More information about our services can be found at: <https://camhsdorset.org/about-camhs/mental-health-support-teams-mhsts>

You can also speak to your school to find out more about how the MHST can support you and your child with their emotional wellbeing.



LOGO COMPETITION - WINNER ANNOUNCED!

The MHST in Schools are thrilled to announce that we have a brand new logo.

After a really tough competition with fantastic entries from a number of students across the Dorset area, all staff in the three teams voted and our winner was a design by a Year 5 child at Downlands Community School in Blandford Forum.

We will be using the winning logo on our reports and presentations, and will also be showcasing some of the other design entries in our work so that everyone can see how wonderful they were.

We are so grateful for all of the entries. It was wonderful to have the ideas and views of the young people we are working to improve emotional wellbeing in schools for.



SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Christmas can be wonderful for some, but it isn't wonderful for all. Young people are facing more stress, grief and loneliness than ever. If you are looking for ways to support your child over the school break, they can access support from:

Young Minds - www.youngminds.org

Childline - 0800 1111

Shout! - 85258

In a mental health emergency where a young person is concerned about their wellbeing, or the wellbeing of anyone else, they can always contact Connection on 0800 652 0190 or call NHS 111 and ask for Mental Health. Support is available 24/7.



LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Much like young people, parents/carers also need to take care of their own emotional wellbeing too and reach out if they are needing help. Take opportunities for you time for yourself and recharge your batteries where you can. Can you get out everyday and go for a short walk? Can you spend time doing activities you enjoy as well as giving to others in your life?

If you are over 18 and worried about your own mental health and emotional wellbeing, you can access support from Steps2Wellbeing - steps2wellbeing.co.uk

SOCIAL MEDIA

Our social media pages have really taken off in the last few months. We have covered topics including worries about returning to school, stress, sleep, supporting Trans friends and family, circles of control and much much more.

We now have 517 followers on Instagram and 354 followers on Facebook which has allowed us to reach over 8000 accounts across the two platforms. Our engagement levels are continuing to rise and the feedback we are getting from young people and their parents/carers is that our social media is a useful tool for improving their understanding of topics affecting young people.

Are you following us yet?
Check us out on:



FACEBOOK
[@dorsetmhst](https://www.facebook.com/dorsetmhst)



TWITTER
[@dorsetmhst](https://twitter.com/dorsetmhst)



INSTAGRAM
[@dorsetmhst](https://www.instagram.com/dorsetmhst)



Your local team emails are:

Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole (BCP): dhc.mhsteam.bcp@nhs.net

North Dorset: dhc.mhsteam.northdorset@nhs.net

Weymouth & Portland: dhc.mhsteam.weymouthandportland@nhs.net

Christmas Tree Collection



Collection between
6th-8th January
2022

£10
donation



Recycle your tree and
help us to **SAVE LIVES!**



Scan me
to book!



Postcodes included:

BH1, BH2, BH3, BH4, BH5, BH6, BH7, BH8,
BH9, BH10, BH11, BH12, BH13, BH14, BH15,
BH16, BH17, BH18, BH19, BH20, BH21,
BH22, BH23, BH24, BH25, BH31, DT11

DM318

dorsetmind.uk/christmas-tree-collection