

# **The Blandford School**

## **Student Bulletin**

**Friday, 8 April 2022 – Happy Easter to you all**

**This is a new Student Bulletin which will be published every two weeks; students, parents/carers please send future celebratory stories to [office@blandfordschool.org.uk](mailto:office@blandfordschool.org.uk) .**



### **Student and Staff Generosity - Mrs H Garner, English Teacher**

*Like many people around the world, I was shocked by the news when I heard about the Russian Invasion of Ukraine on February 24<sup>th</sup> this year. Seeing the distressing images being broadcast around the world, I initially felt powerless to do anything to help, however my first response was to go into school and see if anyone felt the same as me. Sending an email to all staff, I suggested that if people wanted to contribute clothing, food or medicine, they could drop it to my classroom and I would then take donations to a local collection centre. The response was incredible and my classroom was soon bulging at the seams with supplies on the first day, meaning that I needed to ask some colleagues to help me to transport the donations to the collection depot in Blandford.*



*After a few days, it became clear that the response from the public had been overwhelming and collection centres needed to stop taking donations. This led me to consider a fundraising activity by the end of the week and after hearing that the Emergency Disaster Fund would be able to target funds to where they were needed on the ground, I decided on having a school-wide approach to the crisis. The non-uniform day where students and staff were encouraged to wear blue and yellow in support of the people of Ukraine was a success, raising over **£2,000** on the day. Following this, we decided on a cake sale for the BSN Sing Concert on the following Tuesday and students and staff baked cakes to sell at the evening performance. The student group, led by Sixth form students sold these and raised **£260**, meaning that a total of **£2,281.66** has been raised. The government have pledged to match this amount leading to a total of **£4,563.32** for the appeal, a truly humbling effort by students and staff in such a short time.*

### **Anti-Bullying Team Launch New Campaign 'Educate, Don't Discriminate'**

Our amazing student Anti-Bullying Team have been working hard with senior leaders to create new ways for students to report any unkindness/bullying in the school and as a result new physical and on-line ways of reporting have been introduced. These were agreed as a result of consultation with students and our new campaign, **'Educate, Don't Discriminate'** is being published school - wide.

The main project the team have been working hard on is our on-line report forms. We have created forms for victim reporting; witnesses or someone reporting on behalf of another student and re-occurrence or follow – up forms to ensure the issue was dealt with effectively. **All forms are on the school website under 'Anti-Bullying Ambassadors'.**

Our Anti-Bullying Room is a space where students can also go to report any concerns. It is a small room opposite Block 5 stairs, open to use at lunchtimes to all year groups. We hope this is a useful space for our students and they feel comfortable to report any matters by using this facility.

**An enormous thank-you to our Anti –Bullying Team**



### Amazing Alumni News!

Former TBS student Maisy Allen has been named as captain of England U20s rugby team for the 6 nations championship.



**What a star!**

One of our Year 12 students, Jay recently had a late call up to join the Dorset team at the English Schools Cross Country Championships in Kent



He finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the team of 8 Dorset runners. Especially impressive since he had a mid-season injury and it was the day after the prom!

**Well Done, Jay!**

### SPORTING STARS

A highly successful Spring Term has seen our footballers manage to complete an undefeated full-sided season. Capped with the delivery this week of the Mike Webber trophy crowning us as North Dorset small sided tournament winners overall with the Year 8, 9 and 11 boys and U15 girls all winning their respective competitions. Many games have been refereed by students who are qualified referees, thank you to Isaac Ryan.

Our Netballers have had a great season. The year 7 netballers reached the County Finals today and put in some fantastic performances, finishing 3rd in their section behind Talbot Heath and Port Regis. The U15s also reached the county finals at Canford School. Well done to all students involved.

Finally, well done to Year 11's Stephen, Patrick and Issac on their selection for and representation of Dorset County football this season!

**Mr Young, Head of PE**

### Governor News

Many thanks to those parents who responded to our invitation and have met with James Vaughan, Parent Governor. We really appreciate your input.

We will be inviting all parents to join us next term, so we are able to share our current work and plans for the future. More details to follow.

Sally Wilson, Headteacher  
Mario Roncaglia, Chair of Governors

### Congratulations

to:

*Rosema in Year 12 who recently secured a place on the Medical Science Day at Oxford – we look forward to hearing about it after Easter.*

*Congratulations to Will, Ajay and Charlie for being part of the AFCB 'Green Team' on March 12 by helping collect litter left by supporters, they worked for 90 minutes and cleared half of the biggest stand! AFCB Staff were very complimentary throughout the day and they were a credit to the school.*



### TBS Three Peaks Challenge:

The Blandford School is committed to supporting our local community and for that reason, a staff team are taking on the 3 Peaks Challenge in April 2022 to raise money for the Blandford Foodbank and MyTime Young Carers. The 3 Peaks Challenge involves climbing and descending the UK's 3 highest peaks, Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon, all within 24 hours. This equates to covering marathon distance on foot and well over 1000 miles in a minibus. **Any donations are much appreciated, and all the financial proceeds will be split evenly between the two charities.**



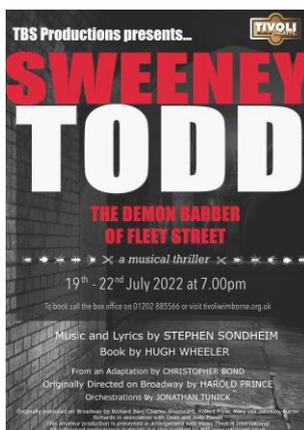
<https://gofund.me/3b337772>

Mr Clinton, Head of Year 7 & 9

### Sweeney Todd:

Tickets for our school production of Sweeney Todd are now **ON SALE!** running from the 19th - 22nd July at 7pm, the Tivoli Theatre, Wimborne

To book call the box office on 01202 885566 or check out their website at [www.tivoliwimborne.co.uk](http://www.tivoliwimborne.co.uk)



We are really excited to be back at the Tivoli Theatre this year and to be performing with students in all year groups across the school once again! Tickets are already selling fast, so don't delay and book yours now!

We recently welcomed year 12 back into school after their week of work experience. Students had a fantastic time and learnt a lot about full-time employment in a number of different areas – some have decided that they definitely want to work in the field of employment they tried out whilst others decided they definitely want to avoid future employment in that area! Thank-you to Mrs Norris, Mr Dorey and Mr Davis who supported students in finding placements and an extra special thank-you to all local employers who took on one (or more!) of our lovely sixth formers. If you are able to take a sixth form student for a week of work experience next March please do get in touch with me now so we can get all the checks in place ready for next year.

Mrs Moore, Head of Sixth Form

At the round robin netball tournament with Sturminster Newton recently our girls played brilliantly. **We had 50 girls involved in the fixture. 5 teams playing and 10 year 8, 9, 10 and 11 umpires.** As always, they played some great netball and were very supportive of new players who were making their debut for TBS.



The Blandford Belles won the tournament overall and the The Blandford Braves had a great win against Sturminster in the final game. Congratulations to all who played or officiated.



We had a visit from George Parker (political Editor of the Financial Times) during March. George spoke about the journey from state school to journalism and routes into politics



and also answered questions on the current situation in Ukraine. The students were extremely engaged and the talk has led to one of our students being offered the chance to have a tour of the House of Commons

### Sleep Easy

Sheena Damon (Bournemouth YMCA) recently presented students with prizes, certificates and awards for their efforts at raising money for the homeless in Dorset following the sleepout in the school grounds.

Well done to our Sixth Formers!

Mr Davis

Head of Year 12

Last Wednesday we invited Julie from the Mermaid UK charity (which supports gender-diverse children, young adults and their families) to deliver an in-person assembly. She taught us a lot about gender and the journey she had been on.

Last week saw a number of year 12 students participating in Masterclasses run by Corpus Christi college, Cambridge.



The masterclasses involved students attending webinars to help develop their super-curricular skills in preparation for their university applications.

Three of our year 12 students who are interested in applying to study medicine at university attended a conference with Vicky Moore, Head of Sixth Form to find out more about the variety of roles medics can go into after completing a medical science degree and the application process. The talks were fascinating and all students are continuing with their research.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> March we welcomed the Young Enterprise in to deliver an Employability Masterclass to Year 12. The day included practical sessions on How to Build a CV, Personal Branding, Writing a Cover Letter, Digital Footprint, Interview Technique and Job Hunting. Our students were once again exemplary in their attitude and participation and gained a lot. Thanks to Mrs Mackay and the Young Enterprise Team for organising the day.

Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March was a highlight for all of us as we had our Sixth Form Spring Prom. The students were all keen to have a Winter Prom to make up for the fact they were unable to have a summer prom in 2020 and 2021. This was going to be an event for both year groups to socialise together. Unfortunately, the high rate of Covid prior to Christmas and the extra measures enforced by Public Health Dorset meant the Winter Prom had to be postponed, however, we had the Spring Prom instead. The mild weather had arrived and the event was fantastic.



Many thanks to Isla and Jamie Hall, Head Boy who had the ideas; special thanks to Jamie who put all the plans into action. The Hub and Hall were transformed and everyone had a great time. We have had a request to host a formal event every term, it is great to party again!

**Mrs Moore, Head of Sixth Form/Assistant Headteacher**



### Year 8 News Summary

After a long winter it has been an encouraging start to 2022 in Year 8. Our football and netball teams have performed with great success, with the boys' football team undefeated across their season and crowned as North Dorset Champions!

The Year 8 students from Miss Griffin's debating club did themselves, and the school proud, when taking part in the 'Youth Speaks' competition organised by the Rotary Club held at Shaftesbury School.

On a more general note it has been most encouraging to see so many children taking advantage of the wider return of extra-curricular clubs, be it in art, sports, music, science or other fields as the school life returns to something like 'normality' after 2 years of disruption.

Mr Spry – Head of Year 8

### Year 7 Summary

Year 7 students have been fully immersed in after-school activities this term with both the girls' Netball team and boys' Football team producing some outstanding results. The girls qualified for the County Championships and were the highest placed state school. The boys finished the season unbeaten and racked up big wins against Gryphon and Sturminster Marshall.

What has been most pleasing though is the number of students who have taken part in weekly training sessions after school. Over 50 students have been regularly participating which is wonderful. Let's hope the summer weather allows for even more next term when we switch our focus to athletics, rounders, cricket and tennis.

Mr N Clinton – Head of Year 7 and 9

Year 12 students went to Bournemouth university on 6<sup>th</sup> April to attend the UCAS exhibition. It was the first in-person UCAS exhibition for two years. Over 100 higher education providers were in attendance and students started to do their research into the variety of courses on offer and the range of universities.



We returned back to Blandford with numerous tote bags filled with promotional pens and then perused the prospectuses in tutor time, learning about entrance requirements for courses of interest and the vast array of clubs and societies students can join (from Argentine tango to Harry Potter!)

