

30 March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration over the course of the academic year to date. There is always a lot going on in school and this term has been no exception. I hope you are enjoying our regular posts on social media as well as The Blandford Flyer which is always a wonderful celebration of student engagement and talent.

### **Student Forum Update and thanks**

I would like to start this letter by thanking our Student Forum led brilliantly by Sasha Payne (Head Girl) and Rob Harding (Head Boy). Both students recently attended a Full Governing Board meeting to reflect on the Forum's achievements this year; they also talked to governors about their plans for the next few weeks. The Forum have asked me to invite you to our **Prefect's Charity Concert on Friday 30 June**: the planning for this is underway with performances scheduled from current and ex-students; food will also be available on the evening. Please **HOLD THE DATE** for now and we will communicate the timings with you after Easter. Those of you who attended last year will know what a success it was, so I hope we see you there...and please tell your friends!

The Forum, which includes students of all ages, is also busy planning for Diversity week and Autism Awareness Week which are next term; I would like to thank students for their input into these events and for working alongside staff to raise the profile of such important topics.

This month we were very lucky to welcome back an ex-student, Ed Mead, as a guest speaker. After leaving Blandford School, Ed went to Sussex University, where he studied Economics. From there, he has had a very interesting and varied career, spending the last few years working as a civil servant for central government. This has included roles for the Treasury, the Home Office and the Department of Health and Social Care. Ed currently works at 10 Downing Street as Health and Social Care Delivery Lead and came into school to talk to a group of Year 11 Business students and our Year 13 Economists.

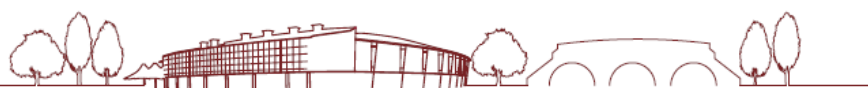
We are always delighted when ex-students join us, so if you know of any individuals who would be willing to give some of their time to meet our current students, please do get in touch with us.

### **Road Safety Concern**

I would like to ask for your help. As you know, the entrances and exits to the school become gridlocked at the start and end of the day, particularly the latter. Staff supervising the car park adjacent to the leisure centre are increasingly concerned there will be an accident at some point because of cars driving the wrong way around the one-way system. The specific issue is drivers who are driving out of the car park via the first entrance into the car park on the right. If things do not improve after Easter, then I will be asking if there are any parent volunteers who would help us marshal this area after school; I would really appreciate your help to improve things, in order to keep everyone safe. Work to refresh the road markings is being done over the Easter break.

### **Ofsted Monitoring Visit Update**

We are currently waiting for the feedback letter from Ofsted following their recent monitoring visit. As soon as this is received, we will share this with you.



MOTIVATION AND CHALLENGE FOR ALL

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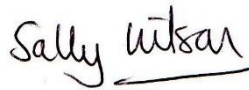
**THE BLANDFORD  
SCHOOL**

### **Academisation Update**

As you are aware, the Governing Board have applied to join the Sherborne Area Schools' Trust and there has recently been a consultation process which included parents/carers. We are in regular contact with the Regional Schools Director who inform us there are several applications they are currently processing, hence the delay in a response. Once we have any news to share, we will inform you as well as outline the 'next steps'.

With best wishes for a relaxing Easter break.

Your sincerely



Sally Wilson  
Headteacher

