



The Blandford Flyer

Winter Edition

2023

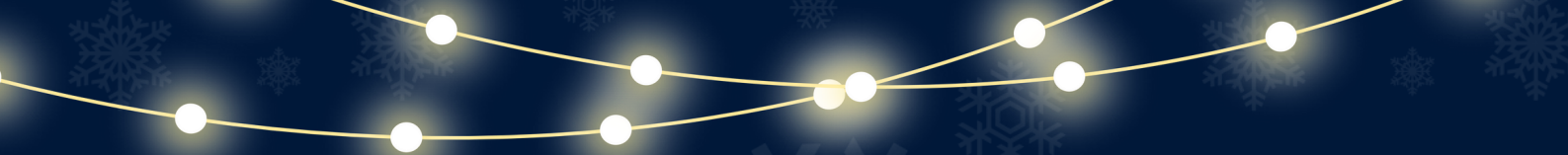
As we begin to feel the chill of Winter, we'd like to look back over some of the stories that shaped the last half term...



The Elves came to visit, to help inject a bit of Christmas spirit into the TBS reception, putting up all of our decorations!



Thank you so much
Greg, Di, Linda & Jackie!



The following
pages are a
retrospective
of our Autumn
Term, recounted
by each year
Head...



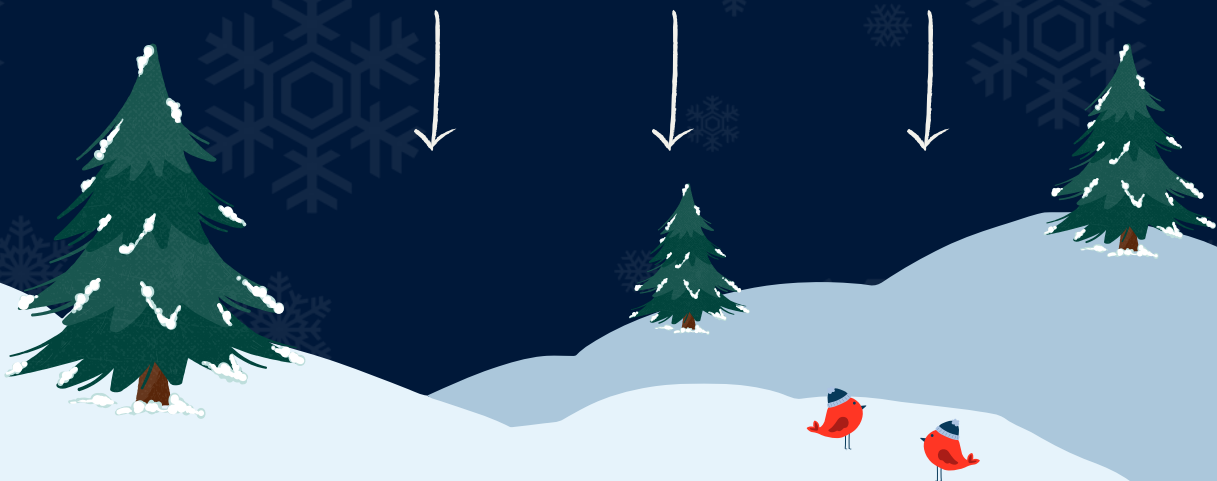
A Great Start for Year 7

Head of Year – Ms Cath Rawstron

“Year 7 have settled into life at The Blandford School very well. As part of the transition process, they have had sessions with the Mental Health Support team to continue the work that they took part in at primary school. It was great to hear that many parents and carers also attended the Supporting Your Child with Anxiety Evening hosted by the MHST. The year group have also been involved with a Bold Voices project, some students attended follow up sessions led by sixth form ambassadors.

Additionally, Year 7 have had two visits into Blandford. All students have been with their tutor to the Blandford Library. Having had an induction and signed up for Library cards, they are now able to borrow books and enjoy the facilities.

Year 7 have also been into Blandford on their first Geography field work trip. Furthermore, a group of students attended the Field of Remembrance service. The skills learned from these ‘real life’ experiences of data gathering will be elevated next year with trips further afield...



Some students have been involved in theatre trips and many are performing in the Christmas Cabaret.

Each week in assembly we celebrate tutee of the week. This is awarded by tutors to students who consistently display our REAP values. In addition, we have a weekly spin of the attendance wheel lottery for those students with 100% attendance for the preceding week. And finally, my favourite is three good things when we celebrate the excellent manners of students, display Art that they have created, as well as photos of sports teams and successes.

There are a number of extra-curricular clubs on offer at school and I'm pleased that many students have already engaged in sports teams and have represented the school. Please do have a look at the School Clubs list on our website for more details."



Year 8

Head of Year - Miss Emma Davidson

"Year 8 have been busy reading their books in Personal Development time; it is a pleasure to see them so engaged with the stories and hearing such positive feedback from tutors. Please do ask your child about their current book and the themes being covered.

In Computing they have been learning about the internal parts of a computer; in Geography they have been learning about volcanoes and earthquakes; in History, students have been learning about the Tudors ; in English students have been reading and writing their own Gothic stories and in Spanish they have been learning about how to describe themselves and their family. Why don't you ask them to describe you in Spanish?



Many Year 8s have been involved in the range of sporting activities on offer. Year 8 netball team recently played Hanford, where the team lost one game and won another. There were several new players in the Year 8 squad, and they played some excellent attacking netball."

Year 9

Head of year - Miss Maisie Griffin

"It has been an absolute pleasure spending time this term getting to know Year 9. It has been a busy term but students have settled well into the new academic year.

There has been a lot to celebrate this term, with tutors nominating a Tutee of the week to receive a Heads commendation for showing the school REAP values along with consistently being a great role model to younger years. There have also been many sporting successes of the football and netball teams. It is also great to see many year 9 students taking part in band and other extra-curricular activities, as well as performing in the remembrance Assembly and the Christmas Cabaret.

We have a great story about our Year 9 Girls' Netball squad further down!

A list of extra curriculums are on the website if you would like to see what else we have to offer for Year 9. In addition, there have been lots of lovely pieces of work and positive comments being shared by staff. This is shared in our weekly assembly, celebrating all of the amazing things Year 9 are achieving every day. Lots of these positives show up on the SIMS parent app, so we can share in these successes together..



This term has also provided all Year 9 students with an exciting opportunity to develop their communication, team work and problem solving skills when the Royal Navy came to visit us in October. Each group was challenged to create a useful object using nuts, bolts and string. There was some excellent teamwork displayed, resulting in some creative final products. Each group then presented their product to the Royal Navy team, promoting their product and answering a series of questions. The Royal Navy visitors were very impressed with the creativity, perseverance and effort shown by the year group.

In November, Year 9 sat their first assessment week of the year. Again, the students have shown fantastic resilience, perseverance and effort in all subjects. This has been a really useful week to help students begin their journey into GCSE and to start conversations about options. In addition, we have been offering a variety of wellbeing activities in our 'Wednesday Wellbeing' sessions. It has been great to see so many students trying out a range of activities to help them improve their mental and physical wellbeing, as well as supporting others. Highlights include, playing card games, making thankyou cards and learning origami.

I am looking forward to sharing many more successes with year 9 next term, along with launching options and parents' evening."



Year 10

Head of Year - Mr Daniel Spry



"Year 10 can look back with pride on a very encouraging first term of GCSE studies. Across the school staff have been impressed with their attitude to learning, which has been reflected in the progress checks they have received in the past week, and the volume of student of the month nominations. It is reassuring to see so many of them displaying our core values of respect, effort, a positive attitude and perseverance daily. They also had their first taste of 'formal exams' with their English speaking assessments, which all completed successfully.

Across the school it's been a busy time, with pleasing numbers involving themselves in the wider life of the community. Open Evening saw a raft of year 10s taking the lead in faculty areas as we welcomed prospective students, and there is healthy year 10 representation in the form of Language Ambassadors, who recently worked with our local primary schools, and as part of our Anti Bullying Team. Continuing the extra-curricular theme, after school sports and music clubs remain popular, and I look forward to seeing performances from year 10 in our Christmas Cabaret. Our boys football team had a successful if ultimately frustrating run in the National Schools cup, but can look back on some fantastic individual and team performances...



More on the next page...

Smaller groups of students continue to work very well with Dorset MHST, who delivered an informative and helpful session for parents recently, and MyTime young carers group, whose work was the focus of a recent ITV documentary filmed at school. I hope many of you witnessed Rhianna M's excellent interview – the first of many tv appearances I'm sure...

I was lucky to accompany the year 10 Art students on an enjoyable visit to Roche Court near Salisbury back in October, where they were able to observe a variety of sculptures, and the highlight of the term had to be the Languages department trip to Seville, where nine Year 10s made memories that I hope will last well beyond the end of their time at TBS."




Year 11

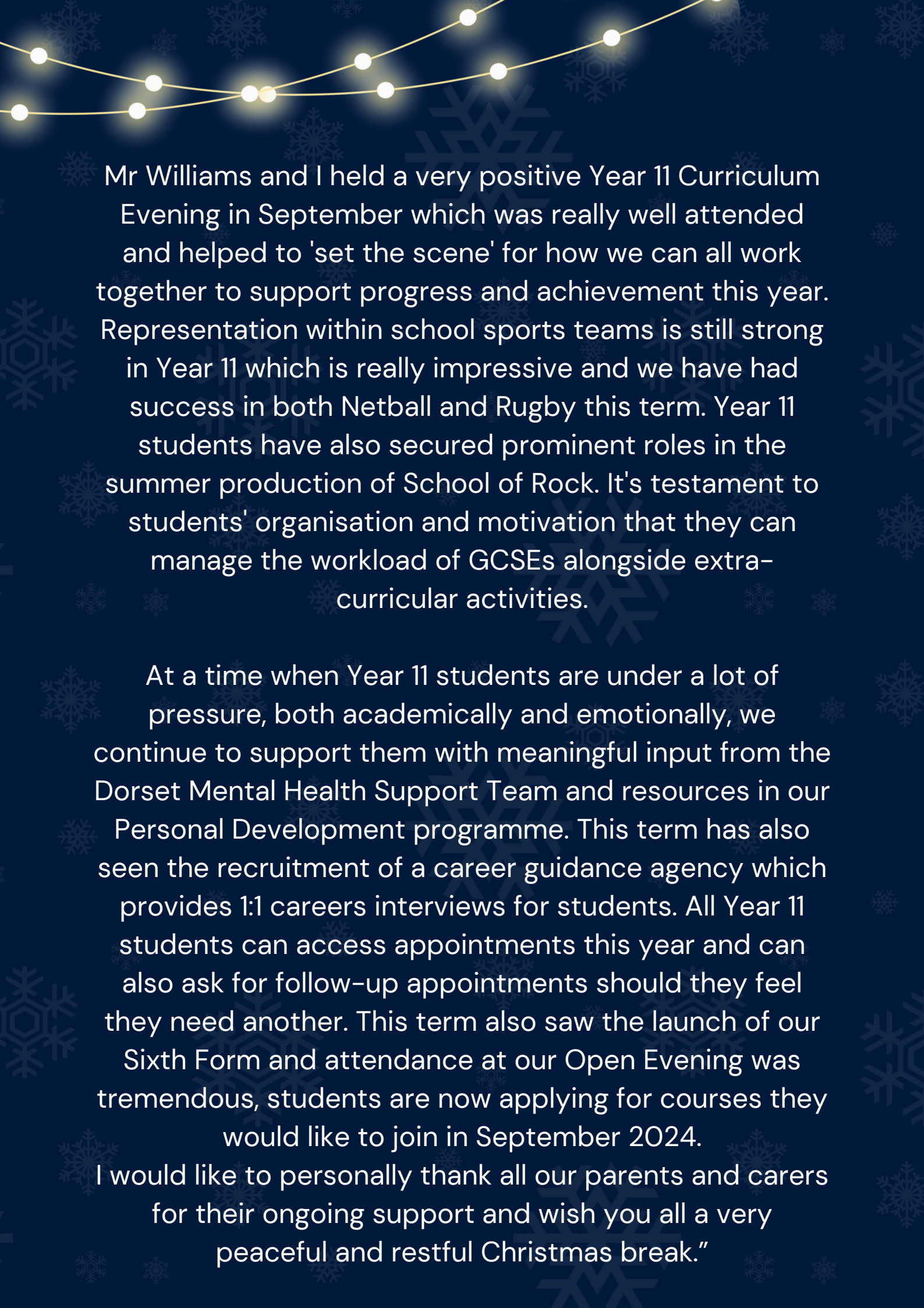
Head of Year - Mr Niall Clinton

"Year 11 have been working tremendously hard in their first term which seems to have flown by in an instant. Students have returned to school this year with a steely focus and determination which is standing many in good stead as we approach our final full term of their GCSE's. That in itself sounds a little surreal!

Students have really embraced the new points system which allows them to accumulate positive points for effort in lessons, attending extra-curricular clubs, visiting colleges and 6th Forms as well having excellent attendance and punctuality. It's been lovely to see students being acknowledged more regularly and more immediately for their efforts, and I have very much enjoyed serving tea, coffee, hot chocolates and biscuits from my office to those who've qualified...



Keep reading,
he's not
finished yet!



Mr Williams and I held a very positive Year 11 Curriculum Evening in September which was really well attended and helped to 'set the scene' for how we can all work together to support progress and achievement this year. Representation within school sports teams is still strong in Year 11 which is really impressive and we have had success in both Netball and Rugby this term. Year 11 students have also secured prominent roles in the summer production of School of Rock. It's testament to students' organisation and motivation that they can manage the workload of GCSEs alongside extra-curricular activities.

At a time when Year 11 students are under a lot of pressure, both academically and emotionally, we continue to support them with meaningful input from the Dorset Mental Health Support Team and resources in our Personal Development programme. This term has also seen the recruitment of a career guidance agency which provides 1:1 careers interviews for students. All Year 11 students can access appointments this year and can also ask for follow-up appointments should they feel they need another. This term also saw the launch of our Sixth Form and attendance at our Open Evening was tremendous, students are now applying for courses they would like to join in September 2024.

I would like to personally thank all our parents and carers for their ongoing support and wish you all a very peaceful and restful Christmas break."



Sixth Form

Head of Year - Mrs Vicky Moore, Mr Tom Davis (Yr12) &
Mr Jason Langford (Yr13).


"We started the 2023-2024 academic year on an extremely hot induction day for year 12 – one of the team building activities involved an 'Apprentice' style challenge with the groups of students having to get a number of items from Blandford within a budget – some groups were very inventive with the items and one group managed to return the majority of items on the list without spending a penny. I was very happy with most of the choices for 'an item Mrs Moore could wear to work' and I have been modelling those this term! Mr Davis was also delighted with some of the ties – in particular the pheasant design which he has been proud to wear around the school. It was lovely seeing the students working well together to complete the challenge. However, the heat played havoc with the marshmallow and spaghetti tower challenge and we ended up with some very sticky tables...

Year 13 have been developing their university applications, and we now have some students who have received their offers from all five of their chosen institutions. Others are completing interviews for universities and apprenticeships and we have been giving them practices in school to get them ready for the real thing. The next step is to make the final decisions of where to go – we look forward to supporting them with these decisions and seeing their destinations next September.

In addition to the core learning for their courses we have ventured out of school for some trips. All of year 12 were invited to see the University of Bath – we toured the impressive campus and heard lectures about the application process and how to make their application to universities as strong as possible. A group of 15 attended the trip to Merton College, University of Oxford. It was a wet and windy day but it didn't stop us from enjoying the day. Please see Grace's account of the trip elsewhere in the newsletter. Next term sees us visiting Bournemouth University and Southampton University....

Continued below!





Health and Social Care students visited Blandford Grange Care Home where they had a day learning about personalised care and Health and Safety procedures, some students are now volunteering at the home.

Business students organised and hosted the film event for year 7 students which was a great success. In addition, some of our students are in the process of setting up a candle business to compete in the Young Enterprise competition.

Drama students went to see the production of 'Woman in Black'!

Several Year 12s and 13s also finally managed to get a trip to Iceland after previous cancellations due to Covid. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and we have a lovely photo of them in our office with the northern lights in the background.

I was very proud of the students who took part in the Bold Voices programme – they completed training with the charity and led workshops with staff and younger students. This is a difficult thing to do and they were fantastic role models for the key stage 3 students!

Next term two of our students will be representing TBS on the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project run by the Holocaust Education Trust. They will be visiting the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp in Poland and hearing from a Holocaust Survivor.

Year 13 will be preparing for the PPEs (mock exams) and year 12 and 13 vocational students have exams in January.

The Sixth Form parents/carers progress evening takes place on 21st March – further details to follow.

The Sixth Form team wishes everyone a merry Christmas and a happy & healthy 2024!



Meet Our New Head Students!



Mary Hayball

Mary is currently studying Drama, History and Philosophy & Ethics for her A-Levels. "I wanted to run for the role of being a head student as I have always wanted to play my part in serving the school community. I also wanted to help our school be a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone's wellbeing."



Elowen Harley

Elowen studies 4 A-Levels: Mathematics, Physics, Biology & Chemistry. "I ran for head student as I wanted to give something back to the school community as I have been offered so many amazing opportunities over my time here. I am also keen to further our school's equality and environmental goals, building on previous years' efforts."



Deputy - Kayleigh Jackson

Kayleigh's A-Level's include Drama, Sociology & English Literature. In her own words, "I ran for head student to get out of my comfort zone and give back to the school. I want to encourage more interactions between the year groups, as seen through the school production, to make everyone's school experience comfortable and enjoyable."



Our head students lead a fantastic team of prefects, made up of year 12 & 13's, working together to make sure that, among other things, the Student Voice is heard. They hold regular meetings, organise charity events and communicate student ideas and concerns with SLT on a regular basis.

Sixth Form Outing to JP Morgan



Mrs Moore had the pleasure of taking a group of 10 sixth form students to the JP Morgan 'Open Door' event on 9th November.

During the event, students completed educational games to increase their knowledge of finance/technology and improve their communication and teamwork skills. They also had a tour of the campus followed by a networking event with managers.

The main aim of the day was to give students an insight to the work place and help promote their passion for technology and finance. The students felt very inspired after the day. Here are some of their comments:

"I really enjoyed the day! We did lots of engaging tasks to improve our personal skills which employers look out for. We also learnt a lot about JP Morgan as a company including different pathways into the business, their day-to-day tasks and even a tour of their offices!"

"I wasn't sure what to expect from the visit to JP Morgan today but I have come back feeling really enthused about applying for apprenticeships. We were given some tips about how to make a successful application, we took part in some team work games and got the chance to talk to apprentices, graduates and managers about the company and their roles within the company. It really was a very useful day".

We look forward to welcoming some of the JP Morgan employees to TBS in the summer term when they will be working with some of our year 10 students.

Remembrance Assemblies



This year brought another poignant remembrance assembly, organised once again by the brilliant Mr Bailey.

It is so important that we take the time each year to ensure that students understand the importance and relevance of remembrance day, and the sacrifices that so many made.

A big thank you to prefect students in the Sixth Form for delivering the assembly, as well as Miss Wright for choreographing a moving piece of Dance performed by KS3 students.



ESFA National Cup



Although we may not have got the result we wanted, our Year 9 Boy's team played incredibly well in the second round of the ESFA National Cup. In their Coach's own words –

“Very proud of our Year 9 Football team yesterday. Unfortunately we lost 3–2 in our most recent round of the ESFA National cup to reigning town and county champions, Winton. The team dominated large portions of the game, playing with great intensity throughout. We scored two excellent goals through Josh W and Callum H. We're excited to continue with some more football in January, starting with our defence of the Gillingham Tournament ” – Mr Johnson.



Nataleigh Goulden Speedway Superstar!



Nataleigh, Year 11, recently travelled to Australia to take part in the ICSF World Cycle Speedway Championship. Nataleigh finished 3rd in her U16's and 5th in the women's Open World Championship.

We are all very proud of Nataleigh for competing and achieving at this international level. See Nataleigh results below and a link to the website if you wish to find out more about this exciting sport.



Head to the next page for a closer look at Natalie's amazing results!



Individual Championships

Nataleigh came third in the under-16 girl's world championship final on 18 points.

World Cup

In the women's World Cup, Nataleigh and her team mates, finished just behind Australia after a fantastic battle. The British squad started strongly and were tied with Australia on 20 points by the sixth match. The women continued to chase hard, but were unable to catch up in the second half of the competition, finishing on 40 points just two points behind the hosts.

World Pairs

The women's event was dominated by Poland, with Great Britain's Nataleigh and two other team mates taking second, six points behind on 40 points.

Federation Cup

In the women's equivalent, Nataleigh and another team mate spearheaded the British squad, gaining 10 and 12 points each, this saw them finish second overall on 39 points behind the hosts, Australia.



Netball

County Cup!

I am so proud of the Y9 squad who played in the county finals last week. They were outstanding in every sense of the word, the netball they played was amazing and the sportsmanship shown made them stand out above the rest.

They recorded the following results

Win v Thomas Hardye 7-3

Win v Canford 7-6

Win v Leweston 10 - 8

This sent them through to the semi finals!

I'm immensely proud of them all – finishing in the top 4 in the county is a brilliant achievement!" Mrs Bailey, PE Teacher & Netball Coach.



Blandford Art Society Exhibition



The Blandford Art Society's annual exhibition was held in our hall this year! Within the exhibition, BAS celebrated ex-student Isabella Woodbridge's art work as Isabella was their bursary award winner of 2022.

This bursary will enable Imogen to buy creative supplies and materials whilst studying illustration at UWE.



100k In A Day!



Before the Summer, members of staff from across all departments set off on a 24 hour walk along the South Coast Path. The goal was to walk 100km in under a day

Although this didn't happen this term, we have recently been informed of the total raised for The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital... We're thrilled to announce that £2125.90 was raised!

Our staff love a good challenge and are currently planning the next big charity fundraiser, if you have any ideas, let us know!

The staff involved were – Mr Clinton, Mr Smith, Miss Pitman, Mr Johnson, Mrs Hunt, Mr Lonnen, Miss Lambourne, Mr Spry, Mrs Bowerman-Ellis, Mr Luxon & Mrs Thornewill. What a team!



Mr Jenkins Kayak Challenge!

TBS Science Technician, Mr Jenkins, will be completing an accompanied sea kayaking challenge to raise money for the Science department!

He will be kayaking from Old Harry Rocks, to The Needles, Isle of Wight and then on the same day, kayaking all the way back to Swanage!

Copy and paste this link to go to his gofundme page to read the whole story & donate if you can:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/science-equipment-for-children-kayak-challenge>





The sixth formers,
putting their shelters
together for the night!



Sleep Easy. 2023



On the 17th November, Year 12 volunteers and some hardy souls slept out in cardboard boxes to raise some money for the YMCA in Bournemouth. This money goes to supporting the homeless and other disadvantaged young people in the area.

(Results on the next page!)



"I am incredibly proud of the attitude and effort of all of you on the night as well as the amount of money raised.

Really great to see The Blandford School generosity hasn't suffered in the cost of living crisis.

We managed to raise in total **£2939.29** which put us 4th out of 9 Dorset schools that did it." – Mr Tom Davis, Head of Year 12.



SLEEP EASY



***Rough to Support those
the going gets tough ...***

Sustrans - 'Dr Bike' Day!



On Friday, November 24 the charity Sustrans were on-site providing 27 free bicycle tune-ups and safety checks. We appreciate the Sustrans team of Jon Thomson and Anna Phillips – Bike It Officers for Dorset and Volunteer Edmund Murray working all morning long, outside in the freezing temperatures, to ensure the cycling safety of our students, parents and staff.



Academic Performance 2023

In a summer dominated by headlines highlighting the fall in GCSE and A-level grades to 2019 levels, The Blandford School produced an outstanding set of results that compare incredibly positively to both Dorset and national averages.

		The Blandford School		National	
% Grades at 7+		22		21	
% Grades at 5+		65		54	
% Grades at 4+		75		70	
Average Point Score		4.98		4.78	
	% English 4+	% English 5+	% Maths 4+	% Maths 5+	
National	64	55	61	52	
Dorset	74	58	71	48	
The Blandford School	80	69	82	68	
	% English & Maths 4+		% English and Maths 5+		
Dorset	65		41		
The Blandford School	76		61		



GCSE

Post-16



	TBS	National
A*-A	28.7%	26.5%
A*-B	61.2%	
A*-C	85.1%	75.4%
A*-E	99.5%	98%

The Blandford School is performing in the top 25% of all schools and sixth form colleges for A-level and vocational studies.



Anti-Social Behaviour in the Community.



Our second ASB meeting was held on Wednesday 1 November, 10 members of the community attended, including the Mayor and two Councillors and parents. Dorset Police were also represented.

Actions agreed were:

1. The commencement of a community publicity campaign focused on supporting young people and encouraging parents to work together to avoid children 'going off the rails'. Since the meeting a new Facebook page has been set up which we have contributed content to (see the next page.) Mrs Lydia Bethell, the author of the site, is also in contact with Mrs Katherine Burrows, Designated Safeguarding Lead, as this will be an important link, going forward. We also discussed the potential of some on-line meetings in the future which may help busy parents.
2. TBS to promote through the Flyer/In Touch/social media and our website how we keep students safe and agencies who support us
3. The Town Council to look at stakeholders who could contribute to the messaging.

Blandford Parent/Guardian Support Page

A new facebook page has been created to help assist those Parents/Carers who are concerned about the impact of Anti-Social behaviour within the community. In the author of the page's own words...

"This page is aimed at providing positive information and support to families in a hope of reducing antisocial behaviour in our community.

Young people deserve the very best support and opportunities in life and a chance to feel included.

This is strictly a positive page, which hopefully will provide families with valuable information and resources."



BLANDFORD PARENT/GUARDIAN SUPPORT PAGE

WORKING TOGETHER TO REDUCE ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND CRIME IN
OUR COMMUNITY

Sixth Form Open Evening

It was lovely to see so many students, parents and carers at the TBS Sixth Form Open Evening this year. As usual it was a treat to be able to show off our school and to showcase what each department has on offer, as well as some fantastic work from students.

Please contact the sixth form team if you have any questions you feel still need answering.



Firework Night



Another year and another brilliant firework night, organised brilliantly by Mrs Kiff! A huge thank you to all the vendors & volunteers, including parent governors, who helped make the night feel extra special.

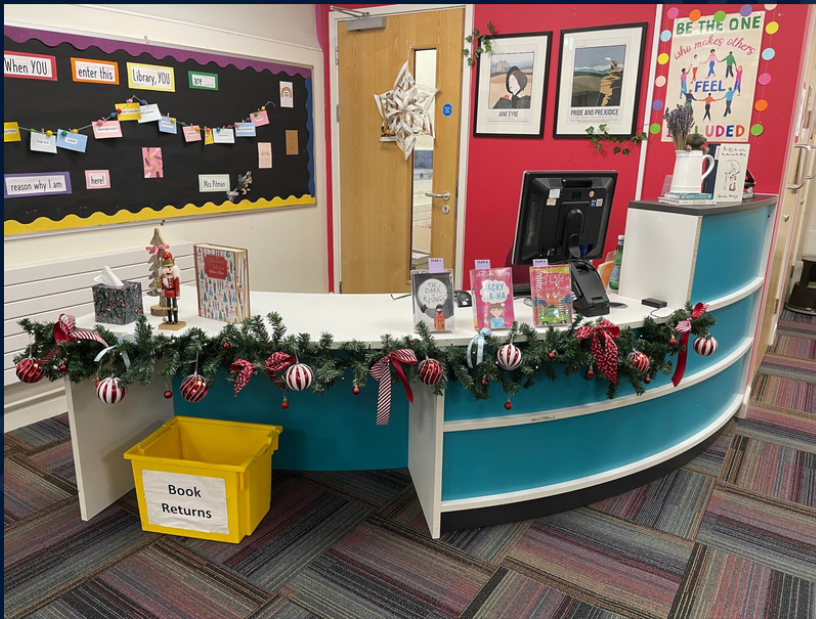
We're so happy to share that thanks to your attendance we were able to raise just over £2000! We will let you know how this money will be used in the next issue of The Flyer.

Friends of TBS Library

"We had another successful Fireworks Night, fundraising for the school library. Sales of mulled wine and cookies raised £243.39 for books and other library resources!"

More info on Friends of TBS Library Below!





For those of you who are unaware, 'Friends of TBS Library' was started by parent, Kerry Williams, with a group of supportive parents back in September 2019. As well as wanting to raise money for new books, Kerry wanted to create a "creative space... for all students of TBS to thrive". Despite being disrupted by Covid, the friends have continued with this aim and, since the appointment of librarian Mrs Pitman in April 2022, and with additional support from the school's foundation governors, the library has been transformed into the popular, welcoming and colourful hub that is today.





Now Recruiting Dorset Volunteer Police Cadet Leaders

Would you like to join the fastest growing uniformed youth group in the UK as a Volunteer Cadet Leader?

- Can you help inspire young people?
- Encourage the spirit of adventure and good citizenship?
- Support local policing priorities through volunteering and give young people a chance to be heard?
- Inspire young people to participate positively in their communities?



**To find out more please email
Cadets@Dorset.pnn.police.uk**



It's Christmas Time!



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period.

Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

Scan the QR code to find out more.

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipsed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

TERM DATES 2023-2024

Autumn Term 2023

Monday, 4 September	Staff Training Day
Tuesday, 5 September	Staff Training Day
Wednesday, 6 September	Years 7, 11 & 12 staggered start
Thursday, 7 September	All students in school
Thursday 21 September	Open Evening 5.30 – 8.30 p.m.
Friday 22 September	Staff Training Day

Half Term Holiday

Monday 23 October – Friday 27 October

Friday, 15 December	Last Day of Term
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Christmas Holiday

Monday 18 December – Monday 1 January

Tuesday 2 January	Staff Training Day
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Spring Term 2024

Wednesday 3 January	First Day of Term
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Half Term Holiday

Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February

Monday, 19 February	Staff Training Day
Thursday, 28 March	Last day of Term

Easter Holiday

Friday 29 March – Friday 12 April

Summer Term 2024

Monday, 15 April	First day of Term
Monday, 6 May	Bank Holiday

Half Term Holiday

Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May

Wednesday, 24 July	Last day of term.
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THE BLANDFORD SCHOOL

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With special thanks to all the staff who provided photos to make this AUTUMN edition of The Blandford Flyer possible